

JULY 9, 1995
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Saddam: Evil forces behind sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — President Saddam Hussein, re-elected leader of the ruling Baath Party, accused "forces of evil" for maintaining crippling sanctions on Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said on Sunday. "In his address he (Saddam) tackled the harsh conditions from which the Iraqi people suffer as a result of the unfair embargo which the forces of evil and rancour insist to maintain," INA said after President Saddam's re-election at a two-day party conference. INA said President Saddam made the remarks in a three-hour address to the conference, which ended on Sunday. It said all senior Baath officials retained their posts but President Saddam rejected a motion to name him party chief for life. The party conference, the second since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, elected 16 members for the party's regional command, the highest authority in Iraq after the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice-chairman, kept his position as President Saddam's deputy in the Baath Party leadership. Taha Yassin Ramadan, vice-president and RCC member, also retained a seat in party leadership as did Tariq Aziz.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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IAEA satisfied with Iraq monitoring

BAGHDAD (R) — The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) now has three experts based in Iraq monitoring some 150 sites to prevent Baghdad reviving nuclear plans, a senior IAEA official said on Sunday. Maurizio Zifferero, IAEA's deputy director, also said at the end of a visit his agency considered reports which alleged Iraq was pursuing a clandestine nuclear programme by building computer models had received too much attention. "I think this matter attracted too much attention. Let us say that we are satisfied this issue is not important," Mr. Zifferero told Reuters at the end of several days of high-level talks with his Iraqi counterparts. "The long-term monitoring is fully established and running," he added, saying IAEA officials had free access to carry out spot checks. The U.N. official responsible for dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, Rolf Ekens, had already given Iraq a clean bill of health on nuclear weapons, but he says doubts remain over Baghdad attempts to build biological weapons, and in particular what happened to large quantities of "growth media" Iraq imported before the Gulf war.

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Jewish women delegation in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Information Secretary General Nayef Mawla Sunday received a Jewish delegation representing the Conservative Jewish Women in the United States, and reviewed with them Jordan's pivotal role in the Middle East peace process and its genuine interest in achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. Addressing the delegation, Mr. Mawla said Jordan is heading towards building democratic life in which people take part in the decision-making process and where people are able to elect their representatives in Parliament. Mr. Mawla cited the issuance of five daibes, seven weeklies and 17 party newspapers as a live example of the freedom of opinion and expression, which is guaranteed by the Constitution. Referring to the women's status in Jordan, Mr. Mawla said women employees account for 16 per cent of the total labour force in Jordan. The Jewish Women Federation in the United States includes 1,500 women and 700 local groups from North America, Israel and England.

Olmert presses push on Orient House

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — In its latest move against Jerusalem's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters, the municipality on Sunday ordered an unlicensed trailer on the grounds to be removed or demolished within 30 days. Jerusalem's hawkish mayor, Ehud Olmert, said he would use all legal means to prevent PLO political activity in the city. He was especially angry after the Palestinians, in a show of independence, last month revived a city council that ran East Jerusalem until 1967. In response, the mayor threatened to seek a court order to shut down the Orient House unless its owners applied to the Olmert administration to have a zoning permit changed from hotel to office use. Such an application would imply that the PLO officials recognised Israeli sovereignty in the city, Mr. Olmert said at the time. On Sunday, building inspectors delivered a written warning to the Orient House, saying the trailer on the grounds would have to be removed or demolished within a month, said a spokeswoman.

'Syrian Jews smuggled oldest Bible'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Jews from Syria have secretly carried what is reputed to be the world's oldest Bible back to Israel page by page, ending a 1,000-year odyssey, a newspaper reported Sunday. Written on parchment, the Old Testament, or tanakh in Hebrew, was taken from Jerusalem by the Turks in 1071 and taken to Egypt. It was kept in the Cairo synagogue until the 14th century when descendants of Maimonides transferred it to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. The great scholar, who died in 1204, is said to have used the book as the basis for his rabbinical decrees which are still observed today. "The Crown of Aleppo," as it came to be called, was jealously guarded by generation after generation, who even refused to let Jews from outside the local community see the book. The Yediot Aharonot daily said many of the pages bear the inscription "Blessed be he who preserves this, a curse upon be who steals this."

Israelis dismantle bomb in Gaza

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops defused a large bomb on Sunday placed near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, security sources and settlers said. It was the second bomb in a week to target Israeli settlements in Gaza.

Israel, PLO race to meet deal deadline

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), racing to seal a deal to widen Palestinian self-rule, prepared on Sunday to take their talks out of the Middle East spotlight — probably to Italy. Officials close to the talks said they would likely move to Italy on Wednesday or Thursday after both Israelis and Palestinians met U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross, due in the region on Monday. Mr. Ross would discuss arranging for a signing ceremony in Washington, probably the first week of August, they said. The two sides are trying to nail down an accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho to more of the West Bank. The officials disclosed it would be at least the third time talks would take place in Italy. Palestinian officials said they expected the new talks would take place not in Rome but at a scheduled place away from external pressures. Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, asked if Italy was the venue, said: "Probably, Italy is a nice place."

negotiator, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat both said the sides still aimed to meet the latest accord deadline — July 25 — which they set last week. "We hope on the 25th of July we will have an agreement," Mr. Arafat told reporters in Gaza, Mr. Sarid said. "It will be difficult but possible." A Palestinian minister said Sunday the PLO and Israel might miss the July 25 deadline. Nabil Shaath, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestine National Authority, said the next stage of the 1993 Oslo agreement could not be implemented unless Israel freed Palestinian prisoners or agreed to a timetable for their release. The Israelis released some 4,500 Arab prisoners as a goodwill gesture after the Oslo accord was signed. But Israel still holds as many as 5,500, about half of the arrested since the 1993 agreement. In an interview with the Arabic-language Al Rayah newspaper of Qatar, Dr. Shaath reiterated the Palestinian demand that Arab East Jerusalem should be the capital of the independent

state the Palestinians seek. Dr. Shaath said that normalising economic relations between Israel and the Arab countries should be preceded by real progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, opening the way for a final settlement of the Palestinian problem. Israeli chief negotiator Uri Savir was due to have met his Palestinian counterpart Ahmad Qureia, also known as Abu Alaa, on Sunday. But Abu Alaa was abroad. The two sides must hammer out security issues, especially in rural areas. They must also agree on security arrangements for Hebron where 400 Jewish settlers live among 100,000 Palestinians. "There are still a few problems — jurisdiction, sharing of responsibility in the rural area, Hebron city. So there are still many problems to solve," Mr. Savir told reporters. The sides also have yet to agree on a date for Palestinian elections or on how many people may serve on the Palestinian council. Disagreement remains on whether Jerusalem-Palestinians may vote in the Holy City or stand for elections. (Continued on page 7)

Israeli dart shell kills 2 girls in South Lebanon

NABATIYEH (Agencies) —

Two sisters were killed and five other people were wounded when an Israeli shell packed with internationally-banned metal darts hit a house in South Lebanon during a night-time bombardment, police sources reported Sunday. They said the shell fired by a tank in the Israeli-occupied sector along the border was an anti-personnel flechette munition. It scattered hundreds of nail-size darts in all directions when it explodes. It was the second time this year that the Israelis have used this type of weapon, designed to inflict a large number of casualties, the police sources said. The casualties raised the toll so far this year in South Lebanon, the last active war-front in the Arab-Israeli conflict, to 103 killed and 244 wounded. It was not clear what provoked the Israeli bombardment. But in recent weeks, guerrillas of Hizbollah have intensified their attacks on the Israelis and their militia allies in the occupied enclave. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin criticised the army Sunday for the shelling and said the tank fire that killed the sisters was unnecessary, Israel Radio reported. Mr. Rabin made his remarks during the weekly cabinet session, the radio said. Last month, Mr. Rabin lashed out at Israel's militia allies in the so-called "security zone," the South Lebanon Army (SLA), for firing at civilian targets. Reports said Israeli authorities there advised residents in northern Israel to go into bomb shelters, apparently to guard against a retaliatory Hizbollah rocket attack. The two sisters were killed as they ate dinner on their balcony, police said. Four other children on the terrace were wounded and one was critically hurt with steel nails in his head, police said. A Lebanese army sergeant was also wounded nearby. U.N. officials say the dart shells, packed with 3.75 nails, are banned by international convention on warfare. The U.N. has previously protested to the Israelis against their use in Lebanon. In another incident, an Israeli gunboat seized two fishermen and their boat near the southern port of Tyre, police said. The gunboat fired machinegun bursts at other fishing boats, hitting

one but causing no injuries, they said. Israeli gunboats have imposed a fishing blockade off south Lebanon for six

Rockets hit Galilee area

KATYUSHA ROCKETS hit northern Israel from Lebanon on Sunday, provoking an artillery barrage by Israeli forces as the circle of deadly violence escalated, military officials said. The rockets, which caused neither casualties nor damage were fired in reprisal for Israeli shelling which killed two Lebanese teenagers and wounded five more late Saturday. A small fire which broke out in one of the fields was quickly extinguished. The officials did not say how many salvos were fired. The rockets exploded in fields in open countryside at two locations near the border in western and northern Galilee. Hizbollah claimed the attack over its radio the Voice of Islam.

Suffering of Iraqis should not be ignored — Sheikh Hamad

LONDON (Agencies) —

The new ruler of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, has expressed his full support for U.N. resolutions on Iraq though he said it was a "mistake" to ignore the hardships of the Iraqi people. In an interview with the BBC World Service TV Arabic language service — his first since deposing his father in a bloodless coup on June 27 — Sheikh Hamad said Iraq was "the main obstacle" on the road to Arab reconciliation and unity. "The state of affairs in Iraq — I think this is the main obstacle," the Emir said. "We here in Qatar fully backed the U.N. resolutions and are clear about this," he said, referring to U.N. sanctions to punish Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 and make it disarm after being driven out. "But as far as the suffering of the Iraqi people — and you know that there is blood relations between the people

of Iraq and the people of the Arab Gulf states — I believe that it is a mistake to ignore the Iraqi people or leave them in this situation." "After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Arab World was split apart. Healing the rift is not that easy but ignoring it is not in the interest of the Arab World," the Emir said. "I do not believe that there are any genuine efforts to heal the rift," he added, calling the present time "the darkest period that the Arab World has ever faced." "I believe that certain Arab leaders who have a history of presenting initiatives should use the aegis of the Arab League and put forward a binding decision that would return some unity of the Arab World," he said. Sheikh Hamad said he would try to resolve Qatar's border conflicts with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. "It is not easy to repair the damage done by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but to

ignore it is not in the interest of the Arab Nation," he said. He said he had the "sincere intention" of resolving a dispute with Riyadh over a border region which caused clashes in 1992. Saudi Arabia recognised Sheikh Hamad shortly after the palace coup. He also indicated that Qatar was considering withdrawing a complaint against Bahrain before the World Court. The two countries are embroiled in a dispute of the Hawar Islands lying between them in the Gulf. On the Middle East peace process and Qatar's moves over the past two years towards normalising ties with Israel, Sheikh Hamad said Qatar had played a role though not a prominent one in the process. "As for the peace process, I believe that after the Madrid conference where all the Arab countries were represented, we in Qatar have



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on students from the military wing of Muta University (Armed Forces photo)

Regent urges new officers to boost role of Armed Forces

MUTA (Petra) —

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday attended the graduation of the eighth batch of students from the military wing of Muta University and urged the new officers to help strengthen the role of the Jordanian Armed Forces. The Regent said that the Armed Forces had a pivotal role to play in invigorating the Kingdom's message at the Arab, Islamic, regional and international levels besides protecting the country's achievements. "You have to serve as a shield for the nation at a time when the Armed Forces role is growing in importance based on your actions on the concept of right is might and not vice versa," said the Regent. The Crown Prince said that there was a growing relationship between the concept of homeland and building

democracy and therefore there was a need for a clear and practical course of action to address national issues and to work out a programme for solving questions like unemployment and poverty which are plaguing almost all contemporary societies around the world. "You are also called on to enhance the spirit of national belonging and this should be clearly reflected in your work, and I call on you to be keen in the search for more knowledge, remembering that the world is passing through a stage where there is no room for anyone except those who are armed with knowledge," he said. Jordan, the Prince added, has always been open to various world cultures and working for the future not afraid over the Arab Nation's fate because the Arab Nation has always been unique in

foiling all invaders. "We take pride of our achievements and we are determined to build on these achievements, and, therefore, Jordan is in need of the efforts of its citizens and in need of all their potentials with which we can achieve miracles," he added. Congratulating the graduates on their success in their courses, the Crown Prince urged the officers to serve as soldiers of truth and right and to base their work and endeavours on high morals and to seek justice. Also on Sunday, the Regent inaugurated the new premises of the Prince Zeid Ben Al Hussein Brigade and delivered a short address on the occasion pointing out the Armed Forces' role in the country's development and

Syria rejects Israeli early-warning stations

CAIRO (Agencies) —

Syria rejects the idea of Israeli early-warning stations in its territory and also has reservations about aerial surveillance, Information Minister Mohammad Salaman said in an interview published on Sunday. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Friday that Israeli troops must man early-warning stations in the Golan Heights even after it is returned to Syria. Israeli President Ezer Weizman urged his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad on Sunday to show readiness for peace by meeting with Mr. Rabin. "He must meet... with Mr. Rabin," Mr. Weizman said. "If he thinks it dishonourable and unpleasant, then there is a problem."

"President Assad must show more readiness, more understanding," Mr. Weizman added. "If he will sit there forever in his chair, drinking coffee and waiting for people to come to him, at some stage they will stop coming." Israel has a standing request to raise the level of talks with Syria and would view a Rabin-Assad summit as proof the Syrians are sincere in their effort to reach a peace agreement. Israel and Syria resumed talks over security arrangements on the Golan Heights last month. Syria wants Israel to return the entire strategic plateau, seized in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel has said it is willing to pull back on the Golan but refuses to say how far.

Mr. Salaman, in the interview with the Egyptian opposition daily Al Ward, did not bring up the question of Israeli troops on the Golan but said the stations themselves were unacceptable. "Israeli warning stations on Syrian territory mean this territory would seem not to be under Syrian sovereignty, in other words they would infringe Syrian sovereignty and Syria cannot accept any infringement of its sovereignty," he said. The stations would be provocative rather than reassuring, and a better guarantee of peace would be to have guarantor powers such as the sponsor of the Middle East peace process — the United States, he added. Asked about the alterna-

Kabariti planning Saudi visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Kanim Kabariti is expected to visit Saudi Arabia in an effort to further Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation this month shortly after his return from the U.S., where he is on a private visit, a published report said Sunday.

There was no immediate confirmation of the report, carried by the Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Foreign Ministry sources said the minister was planning a visit to Riyadh but that they did not have precise details of how it was being arranged. "There had been intense contacts between the minister and his counterparts from the Gulf states, and it seems that the visit to Saudi Arabia is being arranged while the minister is in the U.S.," said a ministry source. The source noted that under protocol such a visit would come only in response to an official Saudi invitation. According to the Al Ra'i report, Mr. Kabariti, who is known to be keen to pursue efforts to improve relations with Saudi Arabia and all other Arab states, will fix a date for the visit immediately after he returns home from the U.S. The probable date is July 15, it said. If and when the visit takes place it will be the first by a Jordanian foreign minister to Saudi Arabia after Amman-Riyadh relations were strained over what the Saudis perceived as Jordan's support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis. Relations have improved since then although a summit between His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has yet to take place. (Continued on page 7)

Serbs hold 20 Dutch soldiers in new twist

SARAJEVO (Agencies) —

Bosnian Serbs held 20 Dutch peacekeepers on Sunday as Serb forces continued to advance into the Srebrenica enclave with infantry and tanks, U.N. officials said. The last five to be detained, those whereabouts is not known, were taken by the Serbs Sunday afternoon as they overran a U.N. observation post lying along the southern fringe of the enclave, a U.N. spokesman said. Three other posts in the same area where the Serbs have concentrated their attack on the government-held enclave in eastern Bosnia ended up in Serb hands on Saturday in similar circumstances. A total of 15 Dutch U.N. soldiers from two of these posts are in a Serb-held town 10 kilometres north of Srebrenica. Eight Dutch troops who had refused to surrender to the Serbs on Saturday were taken to Bratunac Sunday afternoon, U.N. spokesman Rida Ettashany said. "They had been sur-

rounded (by the Serbs), and refused to surrender. Negotiations went on presumably, we do not have reports of them being attacked, and they agreed to go with the Serbs," Mr. Ettashany said. The peacekeepers at another nearby observation post withdrew into the enclave Sunday afternoon, a U.N. source said. Chief spokesman at U.N. headquarters in Zagreb, Philip Arnold said the status of the men kept in Bratunac was unclear but described them as being "temporarily detained." However, another U.N. official who asked not to be named said: "To all intents and purposes these men are prisoners." "The Bosnian Serbs are calling them prisoners of war, we would not call them prisoners but they were taken away by Bosnian Serb forces to Bratunac," the official said. The enclave where some 44,000 people are besieged

Turkish assault in N. Iraq is still on

CUKURCA (Agencies) —

The death toll crept up as Turkish troops continued a renewed offensive against rebel Kurds in northern Iraq, a Turkish commander said here Sunday. General Osman Pamaokoglu, who commands the Cukurca garrison in south-eastern Turkey near the Iraqi border, told reporters 110 "terrorists" had been killed since the incursion was launched on Wednesday. "Six hundred more are surrounded in an area 70 kilometres wide and 40 kilometres long in Iraqi territory," he said. "The operation is still continuing. It will end in several days when our troops are in control of the target area." Some 3,000 soldiers were involved in the operation, he said, which consisted of frequent incursions in and out of Iraqi territory to strike at Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels. An Iraqi Kurd group, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), said the operation

had forced 2,500 people to leave their homes abandoning 18 villages, a claim denied by the Turkish authorities. But a U.N. official in the Iraqi capital Baghdad said the offensive had triggered an exodus of 700 Kurdish families. "Seven hundred families have had to leave their homes and seek refuge with relatives and friends away from the fighting," said Mohammad Zejjari, who coordinates humanitarian operations in Baghdad. The operation has been strongly criticised by the Arab League in Cairo which described it as a "clear violation of Arab national sovereignty." In a statement, the Arab League said the offensive "defied the letter and principle of international law" and called on Turkey to immediately withdraw its troops. Officials of the emergency

Israel sees beginning of an end to occupation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel is predicting that an impending agreement to spread Palestinian self-rule across the West Bank will signal the end of occupation of Palestinian territories.

The Palestinian National Authority (PNA), with barely a foothold on the West Bank and control of just two-thirds of the Gaza Strip, may begin to differ.

But senior Israeli ministers believe such optimism is not premature, 28 years after the capture of the territories and East Jerusalem.

"It's the beginning of the end not only of occupation but also of the idea of eretz (greater) Israel," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters.

"This government is determined to change the rules of the game which have been in force since the 1967 war."

The PLO and Israel have set a July 25 deadline to wrap up the deal to redeploy troops outside Palestinian areas, hand over civilian powers to the authority and hold autonomy elections, and will hold negotiations this week.

"The agreement means the era of occupation is over," said Housing Minister Shimon Ben Eliezer, a former West Bank army commander.

In a first phase of redeployment, Israeli forces are to quit the towns of Kalkiya, Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarem. The entire pull-back is due to be completed by mid-1997 in the Israeli project.

"Once you leave these cities there is no going back. It's over," Mr. Ben Eliezer said.

"We should not be afraid of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, on condition that it is based on the principle of peaceful coexistence."

"If we succeed it will be a historic change. If we fail we will pay heavily."

Nonetheless, Mr. Peres reportedly warned the cabinet that the Palestinians were likely to be disappointed, as Israel plans to give them control over only 18 per cent of the West Bank.

In another indication of the ambiguity of the time, an Israeli minister who is traditionally considered a moderate urged the government to annex de facto parts of the West Bank.

"We must immediately spread Israeli legislation to the zones which in any event will remain under our control," Justice Minister David Libai said.

He gave the example of Maale Adumim, the biggest Jewish settlement with a population of some 20,000, which is about 10 kilometres from Jerusalem on the road to Jericho.

It lies in the West Bank belt which the government calls greater Jerusalem and has no intention of ceding to the Palestinians.

According to the Jerusalem Post, Mr. Libai was giving public voice to what Mr. Rabin told his parliamentary Labour Party behind closed doors last week.

He said he did not want Palestinian police in the Jerusalem area, the Jordan Valley and along the West Bank borders.

Mr. Rabin wants to hold on to those regions as part of a final accord with the Palestinians, who he intends to offer an "entity", short of a full state.

"We do not intend to return to the green line of 1967," Mr. Rabin admitted in an interview published in the Davar newspaper on Friday. That would calm the 130,000 Jewish settlers who are concentrated in those areas and campaigning vigorously to block redeployment.

The government is taking seriously threats from extremists to take up arms against the evacuation of any settlements and is also concerned about morale in the army if it is asked to tackle a hard core of settlers.

Final status negotiations on the territories, including Jerusalem, settlements and refugees, are set to start by May 1996.

Israel and the PLO remain far apart in the complex negotiations.

Negotiators are grappling with a mass of detail to enable an army withdrawal from Arab population areas, autonomy elections and a transfer of civilian powers.

Senior Israeli sources, who refused to be named, summed up the differences:

REDEPLOYMENT: The PLO wants take over all the West Bank, except settlements and access roads, before elections. Joint patrols based on the Gaza experience in some areas.

Israel ready to cede control only over major towns with some areas under joint security.

TIMETABLE: Palestinians want precise dates for redeployment from all towns, including Hebron, and villages before elections are held.

Israel refuses to set dates and wants a first stage redeployment before elections with a second, post-election stage to depend on the success of the first.

ELECTIONS: Palestinians refuse to hold elections in the presence of Israeli troops. They want Jerusalem residents to be allowed to run for office as well as vote for the autonomy council which should have 75 members.

The ballot should be held 25 weeks after the signing of the accord.

Israel wants to keep troops in Hebron and parts of Ramallah and Bethlehem as well as maintain control over Arab villages. The council

should have only 35 members. Accord for 700 international observers.

PRISONERS: Palestinians want earliest release of prisoners as a confidence-building measure with a gradual release for all the rest.

Israel is ready to free 2,500 prisoners in two phases, before and after the elections. Convicted killers and common law criminals to stay in jail.

Despite the differences, the July 25 deadline was set after the two sides reached an "understanding" Tuesday on the principles of agreement. They are to resume negotiations this week.

Palestinian negotiator General Abdel Razeq Yehya, who heads a security committee negotiating redeployment with Israeli General Uzi Dayan, confirmed Israeli reports of some details to Friday's Jerusalem Post.

The West Bank will be divided into four zones:

Zone A: Jericho, Nablus, Kalkiya and Tulkarem to be ceded to PLO immediately.

Zone B: Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah, villages and some roads where control will be shared.

Palestinians will run public affairs and maintain order but Israel will have "overriding security responsibility."

As bypass roads are built the PLO will gradually take greater control.

Zone C: Israeli security control over uninhabited areas where the Palestinians will have civilian authority.

Zone D: Sole Israeli control over settlements and army bases.

In Cairo, talks are taking place for the handover to the Palestinians of control over remaining sectors, including agriculture, electricity, gas, petrol, insurance, municipal affairs, postal services, statistics, telecommunications, and water.

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VICTIMISED: Relatives of the two teenagers killed Saturday in Israeli shelling of Nabatieh in South Lebanon cry during their funeral. The two girls aged 16 and 17 were killed in the

convent area of the town, while their three brothers were injured when an Israeli shell destroyed part of their house (see page one) (AFP photo)

Bahraini teenager reportedly dies in jail

NICOSIA (R) — A Bahraini teenager has died 10 days after he was arrested, and taken to a hospital in the first such death since anti-government protests died down in April, residents said on Sunday.

They said Said Abdul Rasool Eskafy, 15, was arrested in Sanabis, five kilometres west of the capital Manama, one of a string of Shi'ite Muslim villages close to the capital that were the scene of four months of anti-government protests.

Eskafy was buried in nearby Naeem district on Saturday, they added but gave no further details. There has so far been no official word on Eskafy's arrest or the cause of death.

Bahrain on Sunday said it had released 100-150 detainees and said the authorities were "anxious for a quick release of all detainees."

The release followed recent court verdicts sentencing a Bahraini to "death" while eight others were given prison terms for killing police

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait bans movie that allegedly insults Islam

KUWAIT (AP) — The Information Ministry Saturday banned an Indian movie that allegedly insults Islam and ordered an investigation on how it was allowed to be screened in theatres. Scores of Kuwaitis, mostly fundamentalist Muslims, had demonstrated outside the government-owned theatre that showed the movie, entitled "Bombay." They alleged that the film, which is also available in video stores, encourages Muslim women to marry Hindus and shows women in Muslim head and face covers dancing in the yard of a mosque. The state-run Kuwait News Agency said the interior minister, Sheikh Saud Al Sabah, ordered "Bombay" withdrawn from video shops.

Iran says 13,000 held on smuggling charges

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian law enforcement agencies have arrested more than 13,000 people for smuggling in three months, a senior officer told Iran's state-run television network Sunday. General Reza Seifollahi, commander of the national law enforcement forces, said they had been involved in smuggling contraband worth millions of dollars, including 800 vehicles and 900 carpets. He said that smuggled currency, including \$1.75 million, 118,000 Japanese yen and 106,000 Deutschmarks, was recovered in the operations between March 21 and June 20. Gen. Seifollahi reported that 2,127 people were arrested in one operation alone. It was carried out in late June and netted 2,200,000 cartons of foreign cigarettes, 200,000 litres of fuel, 15,000 packs of medicine, 1,820 firearms, 220 launches, and boats, and 80 automobiles, the general reported.

Demirel urges Greece to put aside animosity

ANKARA (AP) — President Suleyman Demirel has called on Greece to put aside animosity and solve conflicts peacefully, it was reported on Sunday. Mr. Demirel told the national daily Hürriyet in an interview that the Greeks engaged in provocations against Turkey because of a "Turkish complex." If you provoke us, then you will create troubles for yourself, Mr. Demirel said, obviously referring to Greek authorities. He appeared to be referring to the recent meeting of six Greek parliamentarians with the fugitive Turkish Kurdish guerrilla leader Abdullah Ocalan in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. A visit by the head of the Turkish Kurdish parliament-in-exile to Athens further upset Turkey. Mr. Demirel also reiterated Turkey's earlier statements that a Greek move to extend its territorial waters to 12 miles would lead to war. "This is not a cry for war. It is Turkey's vital interest," Mr. Demirel said.

Israeli army denies Shahak abandoned troops

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's army on Sunday defended a man due to join Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet against charges that while army chief in 1992 he abandoned wounded soldiers in a training accident. An Israeli newspaper raised the charges on Friday in a report on Ehud Barak and the incident in which five soldiers from an elite unit were killed and six wounded by a missile accidentally fired during the November 1992 exercise. Yediot Ahronoth daily quoted witnesses who said that while other officers rushed to help before doctors arrived, General Barak stood with his arms crossed and later left in his helicopter without taking casualties. The 53-year-old Barak, army chief until six months ago, is expected to become Israel's interior minister within a month. Witnesses told the newspaper he may have been in shock. In a statement the army said Sunday that Gen. Barak's helicopter only arrived about the time of the rescue helicopters and had no medical crew or stretchers. It said Gen. Barak left with other senior officers about 45 minutes after the disaster when he ascertained there were enough medical crews and the wounded were being loaded onto other helicopters.

Tantawi ratifies death sentences handed down to 3 militants

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's highest ranking Islamic official confirmed on Sunday death sentences on three Muslim militants for killing a police officer and a Christian headmaster in 1993.

The three men — Ahmad Abdul Qadir, Mohammad Fawzi and fugitive Gharib Al Shahat — were sentenced to hang last month by the state supreme court, but the verdict was referred to Grand Mufti Mohammed Tantawi before becoming binding.

Execution cases are routinely referred to Sheikh Tantawi and his endorsements are rarely withheld.

"Shul up, shul up," Judge Ahmad Bahaaddin Budour shouted as the defendants yelled accusations of injustice and debauchery.

The militants were accused of killing Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Hassan Abdul Shafi in October 1993 in the town of Suez and of wounding two policemen who tried to stop them pasting anti-government posters.

Fikri Fakhri Sergios, headmaster of the Francis-

can school in Suez was killed by the group in a separate incident.

"The infidel, the debauched liar has spoken," screamed Fawzi from behind bars as Judge Budour confirmed his sentence following Sheikh Tantawi's approval. "We're going to get you, you infidel."

Handcuffed and in white prison garb, the defendants were smiling at reporters until the judge entered the courtroom swarming with guards. Then they began chanting.

"I swear with God Almighty as my witness this man is unjust," Fawzi said as the others chanted "I take refuge in God."

When guards were asked to remove the defendants for disruption, a prisoner grabbed a police baton, trying to wrench it from the guard who eventually overpowered him.

Judge Budour also sentenced a total of 13 to life imprisonment with hard labour and 15 years in prison in connection with the same case.

Prosecutors have said the defendants had close ties with Talaat Yassin Hammam, the late leader of the

military unit of the militant Al Gamaa-Al-Islamiyah, the main group fighting to establish a purist Islamic state in Egypt.

The Gamaa, which has claimed responsibility for the failed attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia last month, has targeted policemen, Christians and intellectuals in its campaign of violence aimed at toppling his 13-year rule.

Relatives — mainly women and children — hurled abuse and insults at the police cordoning them off from the courtroom, also venting their wrath at cameramen and reporters.

"You sons of bitches, all my son did was pray and you give him 15 years," howled one woman as others sobbed. "Don't pray, don't anyone ever pray."

Egypt has condemned a total 67 militants to death since the Gamaa started its campaign in 1992. Most of the sentences have been passed by military courts.

More than 800 people have been killed, mostly police and militants, in clashes in the last three years.

World Bank, PNA sign agreements

GAZA (R) — World Bank President James Wolfensohn signed three agreements with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday and promised to keep up aid to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in developing self-rule.

"We will seek in everything we do to be supportive and helpful and participate in further developments of your plans for your people and we'll be here as your partners," Mr. Wolfensohn told Mr. Arafat at a joint news conference in Gaza.

The two men signed agreements establishing the World Bank office in Gaza, a trust fund credit in the amount of \$20 million for the rehabilitation of Palestinian education and health sectors, and a development plan for Gaza's sewerage system.

"We are in need of this help because all of our infrastructure was destroyed. We have to start it from zero," Mr. Arafat told the news conference. He thanked Mr. Wolfensohn for his organisation's help.

The bank has taken a leading role in coordinating international help for Gaza and the West Bank.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Animals of Far East Wood
14:30 Hey Day
15:00 Survival
16:00 Families
17:00 French Programmes
17:30 News in French
18:30 Camp Wilder
19:00 McHale's Navy
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Hears of the West
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Rush Roadster Mysteries
23:00 Les Miserables
23:59 Never the Twain

PRAYER TIMES

19:59 Fajr
05:23 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41 Dhur
16:21 Asr
19:49 Maghreb
21:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 610740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church, Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 628551, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775291
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624528
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 644195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Aqaba 15/27
Dead Sea 23/37
Jordan Valley 15/30
Amman 21/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Mazahrah 620425
Dr. Jamal Jorrah 647551
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 646070
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637053
Naioukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 639730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimessan pharmacy 637660
Narouh pharmacy 625672
Najib pharmacy 647632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qasr (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shahin 995710
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Highway Police 643402
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 643402
Palestine Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 602800
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage

Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdala Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electricity 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Ann 644281/6
Al-Khali Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2
Malha, J. Amman 626140
Palestine, Shmouni 664711/4
Shmouni Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/79
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 778111/26
Queen Alia Hospital 622445/50
Najib Hospital 674155
Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)783323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)909661
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)780732
Al-Hilal Modern Hospital (09)909090

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (05)575555
Greek Catholic Hospital (05)272715

Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:20 Sanaa (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:40 Cairo (RJ)
10:50 Khartoum (SD)
11:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
11:40 Riyadh (RJ)
11:50 Abu Dhabi (GF)
12:00 Rome (AZ)
12:10 Beirut (ME)
12:20 Doha (EK)
12:30 Beirut (ME)
12:40 Damascus, London (BA)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

15:30 Khartoum (SD)

13:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:30 Kiev (SU)
17:10 Doha (GF)
18:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:35 Cairo (MS)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Dubai (EK)
21:50 Beirut (ME)
22:30 London (BA)
01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 50
Apricot 600 / 40
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 100 / 50
Carrot 200 / 120
Cauliflower 280 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 100 / 50
Cucumbers (small) 180 / 120
Eggplant 150 / 80
Garlic 650 / 400
Lemon 400 / 300
Marrow (large) 120 / 80
Marrow (small) 200 / 150
Mushrooms 750 / 600
Okra 180 / 100
Peas 600 / 450
Pepper (hot) 280 / 200
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 120
Potato 350 / 300
Spring Beans 270 / 180
Sweet Melon 240 / 180
Tomato 130 / 50
Water Melon 100 / 50



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday meets with Ahmad Zubaidi, the head of an Omani educational team visiting Jordan to explore cooperation in educational fields (Petra photo)

Visiting Omani educational team praises work of Jordanian teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of an Omani educational team, Ahmad Zubaidi, now on a visit to Jordan Sunday said that his country appreciates the role of Jordanian teachers employed in Omani schools and was interested in securing the services of more Jordanian teachers and benefiting from the Kingdom's educational expertise.

Mr. Zubaidi praised the work of Jordanian teachers employed in Oman saying that they proved that they were always up to date with new trends in teaching methods and their work in secondary schools, in particular, has been remarkable and exemplary.

He said he was pleased to see these teachers interacting with the local communities and taking part in social activities in Oman.

Mr. Zubaidi was speaking at a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh with whom he reviewed Omani-Jordanian cooperation in educational

fields. For his part Mr. Rawabdeh said Jordan was ready to meet the requirements of the

Omani Ministry of Education and supply it with qualified teachers and supervisors and also extend available expertise that would help Oman develop its educational curricula, school textbooks and examination systems as well as train its teachers.

Discussions at the meeting covered the exchange of educational expertise. Mr. Rawabdeh outlined the Ministry of Education's plans for teacher training programmes and introducing new curricula and textbooks as well as the construction of new schools.

Committee draws up plans for support of arts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly formed National Committee for Culture and Arts will hold a meeting towards the end of July under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, according to an announcement made by Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh Sunday.

The committee will discuss and endorse by-laws and a general plan of work as well as sources of funds to finance its activities and cultural projects, Mr. Habashneh said.

The two sub-committees formed by the national committee have held meetings in the past three months to prepare their reports for submission to the upcoming committee meeting, said the minister.

One of the sub-committees in charge of planning has prepared several working papers in cooperation with representatives of cultural and artistic groups, including the Jordanian Writers' Association and the Jordanian Artists' Association.

The sub-committee on planning has drawn up plans for supporting artists, writers and theatre work, for creating a national theatre group and an academy of arts in the Kingdom, and for providing assistance to young Jordanian artists.

The sub-committee on planning has furthermore considered the creation of a national musical troupe and has drawn plans for the development of handicrafts, the minister said.

Mr. Habashneh said that

the two sub-committees are preparing working papers and recommendations to enter into the agenda of the planned national committee's two-day meeting to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

The National Committee for Culture and Arts was formed in May to advance national culture and to safeguard Arab identity, according to an announcement at the time of its formation.

The prime minister, who addressed the first committee meeting on May 6, said that the committee was formed to support cultural activities and would not act as a substitute for the Ministry of Culture nor as a higher cultural council.

Australian foreign minister to arrive for talks with senior government officials

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans pays a one-day visit to Jordan this week for talks with Jordanian leaders on bilateral relations, the Arab-Israeli peace process and the economic development of the Middle East in the wake of progress in the peace negotiations.

Mr. Evans, who last visited Jordan in 1992, will arrive from Tunisia on Thursday and leave for Syria and Lebanon Friday afternoon.

Brian Pullen, consul at the Australian embassy here, said the visit was aimed at "furthering the already very good relations between Australia and Jordan."

He said Mr. Evans would hold talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Audiences with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have not yet been confirmed.

Mr. Evans' visit will be the second by an Australian minister to Jordan this year. Trade Minister Bob McMull-

lan visited in February in what was seen as a major boost to Jordanian-Australian trade relations.

During Mr. McMulllan's visit, Jordanian and Australian businessmen held talks on means to expand economic cooperation between the two countries, and several business ventures discussed are now taking shape.

According to official Jordanian figures, Australia's exports to Jordan — mostly livestock, meat, rice and dairy products — amounted to about JD 40 million in 1994 while the Kingdom's exports to Australia — phosphates and fertilizer products — were around JD 7 million.

Australia, which has a large agricultural base, could increase its imports from Jordan, officials say.

Also expected to be discussed during Mr. Evans' visit to Jordan are international issues of concern to Jordan and Australia, including the situation in former Yugoslavia, and regional issues such as Iraq.

The role of the Australian public and private sectors in the Middle East and North

Africa economic summit scheduled to be held in Amman in October is also expected to be reviewed.

On the political front, Australia is a close supporter of the Middle East peace process and has often crossed swords with Israel over Canberra's rejection of policies adopted by the Jewish state.

The Australian government has repeatedly stated that it would like to see peace restored to the Middle East and supports the Arab call for the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions relevant to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Beirut embassy to be reopened

While in Lebanon, Mr. Evans, foreign minister since September 1988, who will be accompanied by Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Nick Bolles, will reopen the Australian embassy in Beirut on July 18. The mission was closed, in 1984 at the height of the Lebanese civil war.

"An era of growth and prosperity beckons in the new Lebanon," the two min-

isters said in a joint statement on June 27. "We applaud the enthusiasm with which the Lebanese people have embraced the process of national reconciliation and are heartened by the reconstruction now occurring."

"It is clear that the renowned capabilities and talents of the Lebanese people are once again finding their fullest expression, to the benefit of their country, and, ultimately, to the wider region."

Australia has a sizeable Lebanese community.

Mr. Evans, 51, served as Australia's attorney general between March 1993 and December 1984, minister of resources and energy between December 1984 and July 1987, and minister of transport and communications from July 1987 to September 1988, when he became foreign minister.

Mr. Evans holds first-class honours degrees in law from Melbourne University and in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University.

Prior to entering active politics by becoming a member of the senate in



Gareth Evans

1978, Mr. Evans practised industrial law as well as constitutional and civil liberties law.

He has written several books.

He is best known internationally for his roles in developing the U.N. peace plan for Cambodia, helping to bring to a conclusion the international Chemical Weapons Convention and founding the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Two to face trial soon for attack on French diplomat

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prosecutors are expected to send several people to the State Security Court this week on charges of subversion, among them two Jordanians accused of shooting and wounding a French diplomat in March, judicial sources said Sunday.

Others include members of two groups who were apprehended in the course of plotting subversion, according to the sources.

Salem Abdullah and Ahmad Qassem, both 22, both accused in the Feb. 24 attack on Gilles Heine, a second secretary at the French embassy, will be charged with attempted murder, plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal arms and explosives.

Abdullah and Qassem,

identified as a school messenger and a furniture shop assistant, plotted to carry out extremist attacks and targeted foreign tourists, according to the charge sheet.

They made explosive devices and wanted to take over a tourist bus in southern Jordan, but were dissuaded by the presence of security guards around the vehicle.

They panicked and ran away but dropped the bag containing the explosives.

Shortly afterwards, they came across Mr. Heine and his wife who had stopped their car at a scenic spot in Wadi Mujib, engaged the diplomat in a quarrel and shot him in the chest and foot, according to the prosecutors.

The wife was unhurt.

A police patrol which happened to be in the vicinity

immediately apprehended the two.

Mr. Heine was flown by helicopter to Amman where he underwent treatment before being taken to Paris for recuperation.

No immediate detail was available on whether the two assailants belonged to any organised group or what motivated them to stage the attack.

Reports in the local press said at that time that the two belonged to an extremist group which opposed the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed in October and resented Israelis visiting Jordan.

According to the reports, they mistook the French diplomat and his wife for Israelis and hence the attack. No independent confirmation was available on this version of the incident.

Several theories were for-

warded at the time of the attack as to the motive behind it.

Some said the assailants wanted to kidnap the French diplomat and his wife, others said the attack was spontaneous for some unexplained reason.

The incident took place during the fasting month of Ramadan, sparking speculation that the attack was prompted by behaviour incompatible with the traditions of the holy month on the part of the diplomat and wife.

But the French embassy issued a strong statement affirming that its diplomats were closely familiar with local customs and traditions and respected them in all aspects.

It was one of the rare attacks on foreigners in Jordan and security sources described it as isolated inci-

dent. The prosecution was expected to refer the case to the State Security Court this week.

Also pending are charges against at least six to eight other people, all of them suspected of plotting subversion in Jordan.

Some of them are members of a group called "Islamic Revival," which, according to reports in the Israeli press, was behind a recent infiltration across the northern Jordanian-Israeli borders.

Two of the infiltrators were shot dead, and the third surrendered. Israeli reports said. Another three are suspected of belonging to an illegal group headed by a man identified only as M.M.

The precise nature of the expected charges against the three was not immediately known.

Minister swears in new JPA members, says role of press is to serve national interests

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki Sunday said that Jordan was currently going through major changes in development and therefore required upgrading its journalistic standards to serve as an example to the rest of the Arab world.

Addressing a ceremony held at the Jordan Press Association (JPA) for the swearing in of 21 new journalists, the minister said that journalists need to fully understand certain conditions involved in their profession.

The minister said that the job of the journalist is not only to relay news but also to guide public opinion and to be totally committed to serving national interests.

The government will not allow any interference in

Jordan's internal affairs by any party or source, the minister stressed.

Dr. Karaki urged journalists to remain committed to the profession and added that whatever is published in the Kingdom is interpreted by readers abroad as Jordan's official message to the outside world.

Describing the relationship between the Ministry of Information, newspaper owners and the JPA as stable, Dr. Karaki said that JPA laws are currently undergoing amendment and are under review by the Lower House of Parliament.

The JPA enjoys the support of His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian government, the minister said.

The recent government decision to exempt the press from customs duty on imported paper until the end

of 1995 reflects the government's determination to back the country's print media, he added.

The newly-inducted members bring the number of active JPA members to 305, according to JPA files.

Present at the ceremony which was addressed by JPA President Suleiman Qudah, was Minister of Information Secretary General Nayef Mulla, Director of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin, and JPA board members.

Following are the names of the journalists who were sworn in:

Oreib Masaadeh, Muhammad Hujji, Majdi Alawneh, Khatib Salman, Sinan Shqideh, Munjid Namir, Rakan Saadeh, Suleiman Qubellat, Hikmat Momani, Taher Adwan, Hani Kurdi,



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki Sunday swears in new members of the Jordan Press Association (Petra photo)

Shihadeh Abu Bakar, Salam Khurma, Walid Abu Baker, Shawwa, Khaled Zubaidi, Jihad Abu Baidar, Khaled Marzouk Butush, Khalil Qudah and Fatima Smadi.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

* "Cyrano de Bergerac," at the French Cultural Centre, at 8:00 p.m.

* "The Civil War: Forever Free, 1862," at the American Center, at 5:00 p.m.

* Japanese film with Arabic subtitles, "The Golden Days of Japanese Cinema," at the Samir Rifai Auditorium, University of Jordan, at 5:00 p.m.

SHORT STORY RECITAL

* By Minister of State Taha Habashneh and Mohammad Tumaleh at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Muhammad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis.

* Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun Jabal Weibdeh.

* Paintings by Bernadette Gerges and Rita Gerges entitled "Lebanon Tomorrow," at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Paintings by Jordanian Artist Muhammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and Arts, Garden Street.

* Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Hakim at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

* Works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistani ladies donate to YWMA

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, the Honorary President of the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) Sunday received a cheque representing the amount of proceeds from a festival sponsored by the Pakistani Ladies in Amman to support the YWMA's projects. The cheque was delivered to Princess Sarvath by Mrs. Sarwar Naqvi, wife of the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan.

Minister opens Arab-Afro youth camp

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat today opens the second Arab-Afro youth camp. Attending the inauguration ceremony will be the Arab League's assistant secretary general, Ahmad Qadri, and senior Ministry Of Youth officials. Taking part in the 11-day camp will be 120 youth from 13 Arab and African countries, in addition to Jordan.

Envoy reviews recent Jordan-Yemen accords

Sanaa (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Yemen, Fayez Rabie Sunday discussed with several Yemeni ministers the Jordanian-Yemeni agreements, which were recently concluded.

UNDP representative explores agency's potential contribution to MENA summit in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Jorgen Lissner, the new resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jordan, is currently holding talks with Ministry of Planning officials to discuss ways in which the UNDP can contribute to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in October.

Mr. Lissner, who assumed his post at the beginning of July succeeding Othman Hashem, said the UNDP is committed to discussing development schemes and the role of the private sector.

We are currently discussing the prospect of holding an investment meeting with Jordanian officials in Amman in November following the MENA summit to discuss opportu-

nities for investment in the peace era, said Mr. Lissner.

Mr. Lissner said that he was satisfied with the level of cooperation from the Jordanian government in the implementation of UNDP-financed projects.

He said that the UNDP is currently working with the government on the implementation of a programme designed to develop water, social and vocational training sectors in the Kingdom.

The UNDP is financing social projects carried out by the government in the rural regions and has allocated \$500,000 to help Jordan establish a water data bank to help solve water problems, added Mr. Lissner.

The UNDP has also allocated

\$350,000 towards helping Jordan develop vocational training programmes in a bid to help the country deal with unemployment, according to Mr. Lissner.

He also said that the UNDP is at present financing a \$3 million project designed to protect the Azraq Oasis.

Mr. Lissner said that he met with a delegation from the United Nations Fund for Agricultural Development which is currently visiting Jordan and has discussed the provision of a multi-million dollar soft loan to help Jordan develop its livestock and agricultural industries over a three-year period commencing in 1996.

Next month, the UNDP will hold talks with the Ministry of Planning



Jorgen Lissner

on the financing of several projects contained within the 1997-2001 five-year development plan.

Eleven die in violence as strike paralyses Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — At least 11 people were killed Sunday including a local leader of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party as strike-bound Karachi remained paralysed for a third day, police and officials said.

Masked men sprayed bullets from a car at an estate agency office in central Karachi, killing Aslam Shah, 55, a leading member of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) branch and a hawker. Five others were injured in the attack, police said.

Groups of armed men torched at least six vehicles and set ablaze a bank while snipers shot dead three people in the eastern district of Liaquatabad, officials said.

Two more people were shot dead in Orangi and Saeedabad areas in the western part of the city while another person was killed near the airport, they said.

One person was killed in the industrial area of Korangi, focus of a clean-up operation by paramilitary troops since Tuesday, and five others were shot dead by a sniper elsewhere, police said.

Some 25 people including a policeman and a paramilitary soldier died during the six-

day-long Korangi operation, which officials say is aimed at arresting armed militants of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

Police reported arresting five militant members of MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking people who migrated from India after the subcontinent's partition in 1947.

They were picked up from a house of Korangi Sunday and some arms, a vehicle and a wireless set were also seized, police said.

Traffic was largely off the roads in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and commercial hub, with shops and markets closed and most people staying indoors.

The MQM had called for a weekend mourning for a party leader who died in police custody.

It claims Aslam Subzwari was "tortured" to death by police, but authorities say he died of a heart attack following his arrest Thursday on charges of engaging in terrorism.

A strike was also observed in the second largest city of southern Pakistan's Sindh Province, Hyderabad, 160

kilometres northeast of here.

Incidents of sporadic firing and a partial shutdown were reported in other Sindh cities of Nawabshah, Sukkur and Mirpurkhas.

The mourning followed a two-day weekly protest started by the party recently over the rape of a girl and the slaying of a MQM activist late last month.

The government and MQM have agreed to hold unconditional talks in Islamabad Tuesday, in a bid to restart a process to restore peace in Karachi where ethnic and religious violence has claimed more than 900 lives this year.

MQM is demanding an end to what it calls discrimination against the Urdu-speaking community in Sindh which is ruled by the PPP.

The party denies government charges that it was behind the violence.

Founded in 1985, the MQM is a political force in Karachi, Sindh's capital, and another urban centre, Hyderabad. The PPP's power base is the province's majority community of Sindhi-speaking natives who dominate the region.

Meanwhile, MQM leader Altaf Hussain accused the government of torture and murder and appealed for U.N. intervention before the violence degenerates into civil war.

The call by Mr. Hussain came after the rebel leader died in police custody and torture marks were found in his body.

"If the United Nations and the international community do not take action now to stop the genocide of our people in Karachi by government forces then the city will become like another Rwanda or Bosnia," Mr. Hussain told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from London, where he has lived in self-imposed exile since 1992.

Eyewitnesses told the Associated Press that the body of Mr. Sabzwari was badly mauled.

The Edhi Trust, an independent charity organisation which operates an ambulance service, said Mr. Sabzwari's body was brought to its morgue by police after being released Friday from Jinnah Hospital, where doctors confirmed he had died from "severe torture."



KOREA: Rescue workers carry 21-year-old part-time department store employee, Choi Myung-Suk, after pulling him out from the rubble of the Sampoong department store 10 days after it collapsed. The rescuers, drilling into the rubble in heavy monsoon rain, were alerted to the man's presence by his shout, "give me water, give me water." (AFP photo)

Man rescued after 10 days in rubble of Seoul store

SEOUL (AFP) — A 21-year-old student was rescued Sunday after surviving for more than 10 days in an air pocket under the rubble of a collapsed department store, rescuers and television reports said.

The survivor, Choi Myung-Suk, a part-time worker at the doomed Sampoong Department Store, was miraculously plucked alive from deep under the debris of what was the five-storey posh Sampoong Department Store.

Mr. Choi was the 34 person to be pulled out alive since the collapse, but the last survivor, female shop assistant Lee Eun-Yong, who was dug out seven days ago, died two hours after being rescued in hospital.

Mr. Choi's rescue triggered angry demonstrations by the desperate relatives of the hundreds of missing in the disaster, who charged rescuers had been quick to give up hope of survivors.

"I'm Okay, I'm Okay," he told journalists before asking for a Coke as he was carried out to an ambulance, his eyes covered with yellow towel to protect his unaccustomed eyes from the morning sunlight.

Stunned rescue workers, who Sunday dragged eight more bodies from the debris, bringing the official death toll to 158, rushed through driving monsoon rain to the stretcher and burst into spontaneous applause.

From his hospital bed he

later told journalists he had to squat in the small air pocket, licking rain water seeping through the rubble, and chewing on a paper carton to stay alive.

At one time, he said, "I lost all hope and gave up."

"I feel comfortable now," he said, adding, "I will become a filial (faithful) son from now."

"I thought five days might have passed at best," he said adding that he was surprised to hear that more than 10 days passed.

At the time the store collapsed on June 29, Mr. Choi, who worked in a third floor shoe store, said he had been on an escalator leaving the basement level supermarket carrying an ice cream.

"I felt the building shaking. I tried to flee, but it tumbled down too quickly. I lay down on my stomach," he said.

He shouted out from the pitch darkness of his cramped niche for any other survivors and two women responded, trapped but unreachable in the rubble near him.

Both, however, later suffocated and died from inhaling the smoke of fires that broke out in the debris, he said.

Mr. Choi was found when an astounded rescuer working an excavator was alerted to his presence by his shout: "Help me, help me. I'm here. I'm here."

Mr. Choi's father, 52-year-old Choi Bong-Yul, who had been working as a volunteer at the site since the collapse, said he had kept praying for

his son.

In addition to the 158 dead, 262 are still listed as missing and 900 were injured in the collapse, which was blamed on shoddy construction work and illegal modifications.

The hundreds of angry relatives of the missing started marching en masse through the rain towards the presidential Blue House, many of them weeping.

They clashed with hastily mobilised riot police, screaming accusations that the city administration had been too hasty in giving up hope for survivors.

Television showed the crowd beating against the riot police's shields and kicking them before being driven back.

Meanwhile, prosecutors said that a former head of Ward Office in Socho where the doomed store was located, Lee Choong-Woo, had admitted to accepting tens of thousands of dollars in bribes from Sampoong in return for overlooking illegal modifications to the building.

Mr. Lee, who was quizzed overnight, was to be formally arrested later Sunday for indictment.

The prosecutors said they would summon the current Ward Office head and another of his predecessors, also on charges of accepting kickbacks from the owners of the store, who are under arrest charged with manslaughter.

India's ruling party under fire over 'Tandoori Murder'

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The gruesome "Tandoori Murder" involving a former Congress (I) official has sparked calls for a shake-up of the ruling party in India.

Opposition parties and even some members of the Congress, outraged by the macabre crime dubbed the "Tandoori Murder" by the local press, have demanded a cleansing of India's oldest political party of "criminal elements."

The body of Naina Sahni, 29, the wife of former New Delhi Youth Congress President Sashil Kumar Sharma, 36, was found burning in the tandoori oven of a downtown restaurant here July 2.

Police have issued a warrant for Sharma's arrest on murder charges and launched a nationwide hunt for the chief suspect in a case which has sent shock waves through the Indian capital and embarrassed the ruling party.

There has been an arrest in the case. Keshav Kumar, another Delhi Youth Congress leader and a partner with Mr. Sharma in the restaurant where the body was discovered, has been held on charges of trying to dispose of evidence.

Sahni, the murder victim, was also a general secretary of the Delhi Youth Congress.

A number of Delhi Youth Congress members have been hauled in for questioning by the police.

The Congress, in a move

designed to distance itself from the scandal, has expelled Sharma, who served as Delhi Youth Congress president from 1989 to January of this year.

Indian Youth Congress President Maninderjit Singh Bitta vowed to purge "criminals" from the youth chapter of the 110-year-old Congress, which has ruled India virtually uninterrupted since independence.

The moves have, however, failed to pacify critics. The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian People's Party (BJP), has said the "Tandoori Murder" case was "just the tip of the iceberg."

"The entire system is rotten," said BJP MP Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

The centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) demanded legislation which would disqualify parties fielding candidates with criminal records.

"The alliance between criminals and politicians is happening across the board and this incident is just a manifestation of the deep rot," said Inder Kumar Gujral, a Janata Dal leader and former minister.

"The Congress should cleanse itself," he added.

A spokesman for a dissenting faction of the Congress vowed to purge the ruling party of "criminals, touts and their godfathers" ahead of next year's parliamentary elections.

The Sunday Times of In-

dia, in a front-page editorial, said that it would be unfair to single out the Congress party for criticism.

"It is not the Congress Party alone which is afflicted by the presence in the ranks of a large number of functionaries who are not fully conversant with the norms of civilised life," the editorial wrote.

"Almost every party, regional and national, has bugs and goons ever ready to settle scores violently," it said.

"Sometimes we hear of it, sometimes we don't."

Adding fuel to the controversy is a ruling by an Indian court last week providing protection from arrest for the fugitive Congress politician.

A court in Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state, granted "anticipatory bail" to Mr. Sharma, a judicial provision which protects from arrest persons claiming to be the subject of police harassment.

A lawyer for Mr. Sharma has claimed his client is innocent of the murder and is being framed by political rivals.

But additional police commissioner Maxwell Pereira, who is investigating the crime, said the granting of bail to Mr. Sharma indicated that he may continue to enjoy the blessings of influential patrons.

"Some people with clout still seem to be backing him," he said.

American hostage escapes from Kashmir rebels

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — An American tourist who was kidnapped by separatist rebels in Kashmir escaped from his captors in the middle of the night and fled to safety, he said Sunday.

"I took advantage of darkness and bad weather, and escaped at 2 a.m.," Saturday, John Childs of Simsbury, Connecticut, said in an interview in Srinagar.

Mr. Childs was kidnapped Tuesday evening along with another American and two Britons by militants of Al Faran, a little-known group fighting for Kashmir's independence from India. The rebels have demanded that India free jailed guerrillas.

Mr. Childs confirmed Sunday that the three other hostages were still being held by the militants, but he refused to say anything else about them or where they were.

He said he had not been injured by his captors, and had only received a few bruises on his feet while hiking through a mountainous area to safety after escaping.

He eventually reached the resort town of Pahalgam and Indian officials brought him back to Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state. There, he was staying in a heavily-guarded government guest house and meeting with U.S. and Indian officials.

On Saturday, militants captured another Westerner, Dirk Hasert of Erfurt, Germany, who was traveling on horseback with a group of tourists, police said. It was unclear if Al Faran was involved, and whether Mr. Hasert was kidnapped before or after Mr. Childs' escape.

Before talking with a few reporters in Srinagar, Mr. Childs spoke by telephone with his mother, Helen Childs, in Salem, New York.

Afterward, in an interview with the Associated Press, Mrs. Childs said her son told her of his escape, but offered few details because he feared for the safety of the other captives.

Hundreds of Indian soldiers are combing through the Himalayan mountain region in northern India for the Hasert and the other three Western hostages.

Also captured were an American woman, two British women, a Canadian man and two Kashmiri guides, but the rebels freed them Wednesday with a note demanding the release of 21 jailed rebels.

Police said they were worried about 35 other foreigners, mostly trekkers, in the area. It was not immediately clear whether they would be asked to leave.

Sri Lanka launches big offensive against rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka Sunday launched its first major military offensive against Tamil rebels since a ceasefire ended in April, killing at least 10 civilians and forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes, the military said.

"More than 10,000 troops backed by air cover broke out from the northern Palali army base" in northern Sri Lanka, said Brig. Sarath Munasinghe, a government military spokesman.

The operation began with navy ships, warplanes and long-range field guns at two military bases opening fire on Tamil rebel positions in guerrilla-held Jaffna Peninsula.

Soldiers supported by tanks then left Palali military base on the peninsula in two large fronts, he said.

At the same time, forces at Elephant Pass, the only other military base in Jaffna, shelled rebel positions in the area.

At least 85 civilians had been admitted to hospitals in the rebel-held Jaffna town and 10 of them died, said a military official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More than 75,000 civilians fled the war zone, he said.

At least two soldiers were killed and 29 wounded, the official said. No rebel casualty figures were immediately

available.

"Troops met with enemy resistance and overcame it without much effort," said Lt.-Col. S. Weerasekera, a military spokesman.

An air force Bell-212 helicopter strafing rebel positions was slightly damaged by rebel small arms fire and made an emergency landing at Palali base, said Lt.-Col. Weerasekera.

Military sources said on condition of anonymity that the offensive plans to expand the territory in Jaffna Peninsula that the military bases control, not to capture the town of Jaffna, where hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians live.

The government warned two days ago that it would soon show its military strength against the Tamil rebels, who have been fighting for an independent homeland in the north and east for 12 years.

Before the offensive, Sri Lankan warplanes dropped leaflets on Jaffna Peninsula, where 800,000 people live, that imposed a curfew and warned of an impending attack, a military official in Colombo, the capital, said on condition of anonymity.

The rebels' clandestine radio also had warned Tamil civilians about a military build-up at two strategic points in the north.

Fighting between government troops and the rebels has mainly taken place in eastern Jaffna since April 19, when the rebels walked out of peace talks and broke the three-month truce.

The military had attacked some rebel positions in Jaffna Peninsula, 300 kilometres north of Colombo, but Sunday was its first major offensive anywhere.

Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran directs his operations from Jaffna, and neighbouring India is seeking his extradition because Tamil allegedly assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Two weeks ago, a government minister said the military was planning to strike at the Tamil rebel stronghold in the north.

Since the ceasefire was broken, the rebels have intensified their recruitment drives in the north and the east, even among Tamil schoolchildren, according to a human rights group in Colombo. The University Teachers for Human Rights. Most of the group's members are Tamils.

Since rebels broke the truce, they have used surface-to-air missiles for the first time, downed two warplanes, sunk two military gunboats and overrun several small military bases.

Chiluba to expose Kaunda's abuses

LUSAKA (AFP) — Zambian President Frederick Chiluba has said he will release a special human rights report next month exposing former President Kenneth Kaunda's "evil deeds", a local Sunday paper reported.

Mr. Kaunda was last week elected leader of the main opposition United National Independence Party (UNIP) and is poised to be Mr. Chiluba's main challenger at next year's presidential and general elections.

The Sunday Mail said Chiluba told women of his ruling Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD) who went to endorse their support for him at State House Saturday that he would like people to know what the former president and his government did.

"We wanted to forget about all this, but since some people have come back to show that they are fit for politics, the people of Zambia should know their real characters and their evil deeds while in government," said Mr. Chiluba.

Mr. Kaunda, through UNIP, ruled Zambia for 27 years, 18 of them under one-party dictatorship until he was humiliatedly defeated by Mr. Chiluba and the MMD in the 1991 multi-party elections.

He claims he has been forced to come back to politics because the MMD government is bringing untold misery to the Zambians

Nigerian rulers to review coup trial

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military rulers will convene a meeting this week to consider a coup trial which has been widely condemned abroad, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Thursday newspaper said the governing Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) would meet to discuss the trial of more than two dozen suspected coup plotters, including former ruler general Oluasegun Obasanjo.

The independent paper quoted unnamed sources as saying the PRC meeting would be preceded by a broader meeting of top military officers.

There has been no official confirmation of the meeting. It is unclear whether the

coup-plot tribunal, which began sitting in secret June 5, has finished its work and passed sentences, which will be subject to confirmation of the PRC.

The West African country's military authorities have been silent about the trial which has become a topic of concern for many foreign governments and human rights bodies who have sought fair and open trials for those accused of plotting to topple the government March 1.

Local and foreign newspapers say some officers have been sentenced to death. Mr. Obasanjo has been given 25 years.

Mandela seeks to reassure Indians, coloured community

CHATSWORTH, South Africa (AFP) — South African President Nelson Mandela on Sunday reassured the country's Indian and coloured communities that their rights would be protected under the new "affirmative action" policy.

Speaking in Chatsworth in KwaZulu-Natal province, Mr. Mandela said the policy aimed at wiping away years of apartheid by socially and economically rebalancing the communities, would not be at the expense of the coloured population.

"Affirmative action means that all of those who were excluded now must be given the opportunity to run their lives and there must be no discrimination," he said.

"Many business organisations say they cannot employ

you, but only Africans. That is not the policy of the ANC," he stressed.

He also promised to beef up police presence in Indian areas to light the rising growth in crime.

Mr. Mandela was addressing 10,000 people at the launch of a world Hindu conference in this town, which has South Africa's biggest coloured population.

His comment came a few months before municipal elections, scheduled for Nov. 1.

During South Africa's first non-racial elections in April 1994, the ANC lost heavily to the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party in the province. The Indian community voted overwhelmingly for the National Party of F.W. de Klerk.

Chemist shows how to get blood from stone

LONDON (R) — An Italian chemist thinks he knows what makes "miraculous" statues of the Virgin Mary appear to weep blood. Dr. Luigi Garlaschelli said three ingredients were needed for weeping statues that have often attracted the Roman Catholic faithful — blood, a glazed ceramic or plaster statue and something sharp like a nail.

The research chemist said the blood can be poured into the hollow body of a porous statue which then soaks it up. Scratch off a tiny part of the glazing and the blood oozes out, he said.

"When I put this to the test, this proved very satisfactory, baffling all onlookers," Dr. Garlaschelli wrote in the latest issue of Chemistry in Britain. Kieran Conry, of the Catholic Media Office, welcomed his findings, telling the Sunday Telegraph: "If God wanted to say something to us, there are more direct ways of doing it. The more research there is, the better."

Elephants at sea alarm islanders

NAIROBI (AFP) — Elephants are getting bad press again in Kenya, where they already have an unenviable reputation for being far deadlier than lions or crocodiles. The latest clash between humans and elephants occurred when they plunged into the Indian Ocean and beached for islands two kilometres (1.2 miles) offshore, the Standard reported here Friday, under the headline "Swimming elephants invade."

The daily paper told how "the surf-loving pachyderms slip into the waters off a mainland beach facing the Lamu archipelago, sink beneath the surface — and raise their trunks above the surface as they swim across the channel to Mandia island." There, local councillors complained, the elephants uprooted coconut palms and other food crops grown on the island. Officials with the government wildlife service were surprised by the sudden outburst of protests, since the elephants have been swimming across that stretch of water for centuries. It was on one of their regular migration routes, a spokesman explained. The scare about the ocean-going tuskers came a day after Nairobi's leading English-language newspaper the Daily Nation reported that damage caused by elephants was on the increase. Nine people were killed by them in 1990 and 40 in 1992, it reported. The latest wildlife service figures show 15 people killed, mostly by trampling, last year. "The deaths caused by elephants are on the decrease," said John Waitakha, head of the service's elephants programme. A file of incidents of conflict between animals and humans has been compiled by residents of affected areas and various organisations. The damages awarded to victims are generally held to be inadequate and paid too late. Since 1992, elephants have emerged as responsible for at least half the deaths of humans caused by wild animals, with the toll ascribed to lions and crocodiles far behind. A still more sensitive issue is the envisaged resumption of game hunting, which has been banned in Kenya for 18 years. The ban might be lifted as a way of culling some over-populous species, and Waitakha confirmed to AFP that a draft law was being looked into.

Taiwan arrests policeman who robs with toy gun

TAIPEI (R) — A policeman in debt from video games who tried to rob a bank with a toy gun was captured after he left clothes marked with his name near the scene of the crime, a fellow officer said Sunday. Huang Hsin-Min, a policeman in the central Taiwan city of Changhua, tried to rob the Changhua Sixth Cooperative on Saturday with a toy gun, the officer said. "He threatened the clerk with the toy gun but did not get any money because somebody pushed the alarm button in time and scared him away," the officer said by telephone from Changhua. Huang was arrested late Saturday after he left the toy gun and clothes marked with his name near the bank, the officer said. State-funded radio quoted Huang as saying he tried to rob the cooperative after failing to pay a debt of more than TQ400,000 (\$15,500) he accumulated playing video games.



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Residents of a north Bombay suburb try to face major water shortage due to delayed draw water from a well as the city continues to mousoon rains (AFP photo)

Dispute over sovereignty blocks progress at Russian-Chechen talks

GROZNY (AFP) — Chechen and Russian negotiators remained far apart on the issue of Chechnya's status Sunday as they attempted to build on a fragile agreement to hold elections in the breakaway Caucasus republic.
Chechen chief negotiator Usman Imaev said the negotiators would discuss "four questions — three disputed Russian proposals and one Chechen proposal on our suggestion on the status of Chechnya."
The head of the Russian delegation, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, meanwhile told reporters that "we will decide the question as provided for in the Russian constitution."
The Chechen side does not recognise that it is subject to the Russian constitution.
Earlier the negotiators, meeting at the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), reached broad agreements on a ceasefire and conditions for internationally-monitored general elections.

In what Mr. Imaev called a "goodwill gesture" the Chechens handed over three Russian prisoners of war at the start of the session.
The three, who were captured during the Russian storming of Grozny at the beginning of January, looked healthy but frightened.
Asked in front of Chechen and Russian soldiers whether they had been well treated, one of the prisoners said: "We lived where the fighters lived. We were under (Russian) bombardments, but it was okay."
Two days ago, the Russians gave back four Chechens.
One of the Russian negotiators, Arkady Volsky, said the two sides would examine political issues, including Chechnya's status, and economic issues.
He insisted that the independence issue must be settled after elections that "reflected people's wishes in the republic."
The Russian delegation, he added, could propose the addition in a final agreement

of a clause referring to the "future status of the republic."
But asked the position of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's government, which is hiding in the Caucasus mountains after seven months of war against Russian forces, Mr. Imaev said: "The status of Chechnya was decided in 1991." That is the date that Dudayev declared independence.
Between 15,000 and 30,000 people have been killed since Moscow poured troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to crush an independence bid by forces loyal to Mr. Dudayev. Chechnya's population is just 1.2 million.
The peace talks almost collapsed Friday after a Chechen family was massacred, allegedly by Russian soldiers.
Six people, including two children and an infant, were shot dead. A seventh, a woman in her 30s, was lying unconscious in hospital under heavy guard, with a bullet wound in her head.

She is the only eyewitness to the murders, although neighbours said they saw men in masks get out of a Russian-marked armoured vehicle and go into the house, just outside Grozny.
"She's the only real witness and she can't talk. She's on an artificial respirator," said Luisa Chapanova, the woman's niece.
Security was stepped up at the talks Sunday, with streets leading to the OSCE office closed off by Russian armoured cars.
A crowd of about 100 Chechen women, who hold daily pro-independence demonstrations outside the building, were barred entry to the area.
Instead, they gathered in the shadow of Russian fighting vehicles and sang the Zikr, a Muslim ritual. Several fainted in the heat, as they clapped and sang in unison.
Despite the ceasefire accord, Russian military officials said Chechen separatists attacked Russian military posts near three villages in southern Chechnya early

Sunday, wounding three soldiers.
Russian troops came under fire near Mayrtup, Shatoi and Nizhneye Vedeno.
There were also attacks on Russian positions in Grozny itself, the officials said.
In Moscow, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shakhrai said he expected the government's choice of the military option in Chechnya in December would be vindicated by the constitutional court, which Monday begins examining the legality of the decision.
"I am sure that these actions by the president and government were justified and necessary," Mr. Shakhrai told reporters.
The Chechen separatists will not present their case to the court.
Mr. Shakhrai acknowledged "guilt" over the fact that protracted and ultimately unsuccessful talks with the Chechen side aimed at finding a political solution had made the military intervention all the more difficult.

U.S. seeks access to activist detained in China

BEIJING (AP) — China's government has sent mixed signals about how it will treat a Chinese-born U.S. citizen and human rights activist accused of spying, fellow activists said Sunday.
Harry Wu was formally charged Saturday with stealing state secrets and passing them to overseas organizations.
The charges, relayed in a brief dispatch by the state-run Xinhua news agency, were the first official word of Mr. Wu's fate in more than 10 days. He was taken into custody June 19 entering China's northwestern Xinjiang province from Kazakhstan.
U.S. embassy officials, denied access to Mr. Wu throughout his detention, hoped to meet with him as early as Monday, a State Department statement said.
After being assured a meeting at some point would be allowed, Arturo Macias, the U.S. consul general, planned Sunday to travel to Wuhan, the central Chinese city where Mr. Wu was being held.
The embassy, however, refused to confirm whether Mr. Macias or any representative was going to Wuhan.
Mr. Wu spent 19 years in China's prison labour camps. He last lived in Wuhan, one of the reasons he may have been charged there, before emigrating to the United States in 1985 and becoming one of the most dogged documentarians of China's Gulag.
He repeatedly returned to China. A year ago, he investigated the execution of prisoners and the reported taking of their organs for transplants.
The national archives documenting organ transplants are in Wuhan, said Robin Munro, a researcher with the New York-based Human Rights Watch-Asia.
Although the promise of a meeting is hopeful, the charges Mr. Wu faces are among China's most serious. Espionage is classified as a "counterrevolutionary" crime and is punishable by death. Its definition was broadened in a 1993 law and encompasses the obtaining of state secrets and then passing them to foreign organizations.
"A mixed stance has been taken by the Chinese authorities," said Mr. Munro. "In their heart of hearts they want to treat him as a Chinese, but higher levels probably recognise he is a foreign national."
A key to discerning China's intents is how it handles the consular meeting with Mr. Wu, said Jeffrey Fiedler, a director of Mr. Wu's California-based Laogai Research Foundation.
Mr. Wu has been an effective lobbyist in Washington and many members of Congress count him as a friend. Mr. Fiedler expects that Capitol Hill will "explode" this week.
"The Chinese have decided they want to make this a high-profile case," Mr. Fiedler said. "What I don't understand is, is it that they hate Harry Wu or that they want to "humiliate the Clinton administration?"

French navy closes on Greenpeace Rainbow Warrior II vessel

ON BOARD RAINBOW WARRIOR II (AFP) — Four French navy vessels followed Rainbow Warrior II and another Greenpeace vessel Sunday as they closed on the military exclusion zone around France's nuclear test site in the Pacific.
Three of the vessels were around the Greenpeace flagship and a fourth was shadowing a 12-metre-yacht, the Vega, that joined Rainbow Warrior II en route for Mururoa Atoll on Saturday, a spokeswoman for the group said on-board.
The two environment protest vessels were headed very slowly toward the 12-nautical-mile (20-kilometre) exclusion zone that France has declared around Mururoa.
Rainbow Warrior II has been tailed by the French frigate Vendemiaire for several days. France has also put in place navy commandos to intercept any attempt by Greenpeace activists to reach the nuclear test site.
Other French vessels were waiting for Greenpeace at the edge of the military exclusion zone and in Mururoa.
Admiral Philippe Euverte, military commander on

Mururoa, said his anti-Greenpeace force was completed with the arrival of the patrol vessel La Railleuse, which is carrying the 150 commandos. A smaller patrol vessel, the Revi, was also in place.
He said the commandos would intercept any Greenpeace inflatable Zodiac boats that tried to get close to the atoll, where a new series of eight nuclear tests are due to start in September.
Commandos were used to stop Greenpeace activists on a similar mission in 1992. But Adm. Euverte said Friday there was "absolutely no need to use weapons" against Greenpeace, which had shown its "purely peaceful intentions."
Greenpeace has also said it does not seek a confrontation with the French navy, but tension was mounting on the flagship after two other military vessels appeared on the Rainbow Warrior radar screen.
Activists loaded food and fuel on the Zodiacs in preparation for any operation. Anti-nuclear banners were also put on the side of Rainbow Warrior II.

Rainbow Warrior II and the Vega, which has been used in past Greenpeace operations in the South Pacific, have also been joined by a Viking-style longboat chartered by Danish anti-nuclear activists.
David MacTaggart, Greenpeace's former executive director, made an appeal for "all small ships" in the Pacific to converge on Mururoa.
The veteran anti-nuclear campaigner said he was determined to breach the military exclusion zone "as I have done in the past."
"Small ships from New Zealand, Australia, all around the Pacific, could come here, in Mururoa, even if they stay outside of the 12 nautical mile zone," said Mr. MacTaggart. "They will have to put a war ship on each."
Rainbow Warrior II neared Mururoa just ahead of Monday's 10th anniversary of the sinking of the original Rainbow Warrior by French military agents in Auckland harbour.
Greenpeace planned to mark the anniversary in Auckland with a wreath-laying ceremony at the site of the bombing and a vigil outside the French consulate.

On July 10, 1985 the agents stuck a mine to the ship. One crewman, Fernando Pereira, a photographer, was killed when the vessel blew up and sank before it could set sail for Mururoa.
France called a moratorium on its tests in 1992. But it's decision to resume tests has sparked international indignation. Greenpeace and many Pacific nations have expressed fears about the environmental impact. President Jacques Chirac says the tests are necessary to safeguard France's nuclear deterrent ahead of a comprehensive test ban treaty next year.
Meanwhile, French scientists were at loggerheads over the potential damage of the explosions.
Pierre Vincent, a professor at a volcanic research centre in the French city of Clermont-Ferrand, said the tests risked cracking open a dormant underground volcano and releasing radioactive pollution.
But Christian Lepareur, scientific director of the French Atomic Energy Commission, said on Mururoa that such claims were "crazy."

Northern Irish police block marchers

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland, (Agencies) — Riot police blocked a protest demonstration by Catholic nationalists in Portadown on Sunday to prevent any confrontation with Northern Ireland's ultra-British Protestant "Orange Order."
Sectarian tension surrounding annual parades that commemorate ancient victories over Irish Catholics is fuelling anxiety over the British province's shaky 10-month peace effort.
Catholics in the country Armagh Town of Portadown were angry at that they said was a provocative plan by 500 Orangemen to parade later in the day behind marching bands with banners flying through their staunchly nationalist district.
Catholics say province-wide Orange Order demonstrations, culminating in massive parades next Wednesday, are displays of "sectarian triumphalism."
Orange leaders reject the charges and say they are committed to religious freedom for all and that the objectors refuse to acknowledge Protestants' right to their British culture.

Hundreds of police were drafted into predominantly Protestant town to control the rival demonstrations.
As a squad of riot police on foot and in T-Jacks closed off a narrow street leading from a Catholic enclave, senior police said the protesters were being stopped because their march would spark sectarian clashes.
Police said they had not yet decided whether to permit the Orange Order march, scheduled to start about three hours later, to pass by Catholic housing estates at Garvaghy road.
Brendan Mac Cionnaith told police that the 100 Catholics protesters wanted to march to the local Orange Order headquarters to hand in a letter urging the Orangemen to reroute the march away from the Nationalist Area.
Police Superintendent James Blair told him: "If I allow this march to go any further I anticipate serious public disorder. I direct that all the people who are bere dispersed immediately."

Unrest cost £8 million
Meanwhile, police said damage caused in last week's disturbances in Northern Ireland following the early release of a British soldier convicted of murder has been estimated at eight million pounds (\$12 million).
The release of Private Lee Clegg, sentenced to life for the shooting of a joyrider in 1990, sparked a week of demonstrations throughout Northern Ireland as protesters demanded equal clemency for paramilitaries imprisoned on murder charges.
Several vehicles were set alight in continuing unrest overnight Saturday, police said.
Meanwhile a councillor for the moderate Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party, Hugh Lewsley, was taken to hospital Saturday after being beaten by eight men.
Mr. Lewsley, well-known for his outspoken criticism of sectarian violence, accused the Irish Republican Army of attacking him.
"I will continue to condemn violence from wherever it comes," he said.

Khmer Rouge shells rattle buildings in Battambang

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP) — Explosions from incoming Khmer Rouge shells shook buildings early Sunday morning in the centre of this town, Cambodia's second largest, as the government sent in large numbers of troops to help battle the guerrillas.
An estimated 1,700 reinforcements have arrived in northwest Battambang province from several other provinces over the past several days to take part in what is expected to be a concerted push by the military to retake the government base at Treang about 42 kilometres southwest of Battambang town.
Included among the reinforcements were at least six teenage boys aged 13 to 17 who are part of the Battam-

bang provincial militia, a boy who said he was 17 told AFP, adding that he hoped to do his part to rout the rebels.
The Khmer Rouge took Treang, the last government position on National Route 10 before the rebel's stronghold of Pailin near the Thai border, last Tuesday after fierce fighting.
Though fighting and shelling have subsided since Thursday as both sides dig in and prepare for the other's next move, the Khmer Rouge have begun to shell areas quite close to Battambang town from the outlying district of Banan.
At least 10 shells hit the outskirts of Battambang early Friday and Saturday night, shaking buildings in the town's centre, though no injuries were reported.

Cali cartel leader arrested

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A man, reputed to be one of Colombia's most violent cocaine traffickers, has surrendered to police, the fifth alleged kingpin of the Cali cartel to wind up behind bars in one month.
Phanor Arizabaleta, a 57-year-old rancher whose face is on thousands of wanted posters, turned himself in Saturday at the Bogota offices of the DAS, Colombia's secret police, said DAS Director Ramiro Berjano.
Mr. Arizabaleta, dressed in a blue striped suit and a tie and with his hands cuffed in front of him, was paraded by gun-toting police before a throng of journalists. He refused to answer their questions.
When the alleged trafficker surrendered, he announced to police that he wanted to "submit to the rigors of justice," according to the DAS.
"I will answer to the accusations made against me... and am sure I can prove my innocence," Mr. Arizabaleta reportedly said.
The Cali cartel, which supplies 80 per cent of the world's cocaine and also exports heroin, has been hit almost daily by police raids in recent months.
In the past month, two Cali cartel kingpins have been arrested and three, including Mr. Arizabaleta, have surrendered. Two other cartel leaders remain at large.

TOKYO (AFP) — Police plan more charges against Aum Supreme Truth cult leader Shoko Asahara and have detained two disciples near the top of a wanted list over the Tokyo nerve gas attack, reports said Sunday.
Asahara, already charged with masterminding the March 20 Sarin gas attack that killed 11 people and injured 5,500, is expected to be charged over a Sarin last year at the city of Matsumoto, the Asahi Shimbun said.
The reports, which were not confirmed by the authorities, identified the Aum followers as Noboru Nakamura, 29, and Satoru Hashimoto, 28. Six other Aum members suspected of involvement in the subway attack are on a wanted list that has been distributed nationwide.
Mainichi Shimbun reported that police were expected to question more than 20 Aum members soon on suspicion of illegally manufacturing autohomic rifles.

Subway attack suspects detained

The attack in June 1994 left seven people dead and some 600 injured.
Mr. Asahara, 40, is also being held on suspicion of ordering one follower to strangle another Aum member in January last year and violating the pharmaceutical and chemical control law.
Two Aum members wanted over the March subway attack were arrested near Tokyo Sunday, news reports said.
The reports, which were

not confirmed by the authorities, identified the Aum followers as Noboru Nakamura, 29, and Satoru Hashimoto, 28. Six other Aum members suspected of involvement in the subway attack are on a wanted list that has been distributed nationwide.
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Making mockery of peace

ISRAEL'S USE of the internationally banned "flechette" (dart) shells in an attack against a village in South Lebanon late Saturday raises key questions about the very essence of the peace and coexistence that the Jewish state says it is seeking in the Middle East.

For one thing, the use of the banned ammunition underlines Israel's blatant disregard of international conventions and charters on peacetime and wartime behaviour.

For another, Israel does not seem to have recognised the reality that peaceful coexistence with the Arabs cannot be attained through attacks on innocent civilians.

The death of two Lebanese sisters in the attack and the injuries sustained by their siblings as they were having dinner at home will remain a deep wound in the hearts and minds of the Lebanese, with whom Israel claims it is seeking to establish good neighbourly relations.

Indeed, the Israeli justification for attacking South Lebanese villages is the resistance attacks Lebanese fighters are putting up against the Jewish state's continued occupation of a border enclave in South Lebanon. But put in a balance where international norms and laws count, it is the right of the Lebanese, regardless of their affiliation or political ideology, to resist the Israeli occupation of their land. United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 of 1979 clearly establishes the fact that Israel is occupying Lebanese territory and calls upon the Jewish state to unconditionally relinquish the land.

It pains us in Jordan to see Arab blood spilled anywhere, least of all from Israeli bullets. It is a fact that Israel should remember as it strenuously pursues normalisation of relations between its people and Jordanians.

What we would like to see is Israel accepting the long-standing offer by the Lebanese government to ensure the security of northern Israeli regions through establishing a strong army presence in the south of Lebanon as part of confidence-building measures ahead of a comprehensive peace accord. Lest the Israelis have forgotten, an immediate Israeli evacuation of Lebanese territory is a precondition for the offer.

The Lebanese authorities have proved that they are capable of maintaining law and order in the country, five years after the devastating civil war ended. To demand that the Lebanese government disarm guerrillas in South Lebanon before Israel and Lebanon make peace is a simple non-starter. If anything, any such move by the Beirut government as long as Israeli troops continue to occupy the so-called "security zone" would trigger a backlash throughout the country that the Lebanese army would not be able to contain.

An Israeli acceptance of the Lebanese offer to ensure the security of the Jewish state's northern borders if and when the Israeli army leaves the area would go a long way in instilling confidence that Israel is indeed serious in its drive to make peace with its neighbours. And such confidence and more of it is what Israel needs most as it goes about legitimising its presence as a member of the Middle Eastern regional order.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Sunday deplored Turkey's repeated incursions into Iraqi territory to attack Kurdish positions, saying that such attacks constitute a serious threat to Iraq in general and to the Kurdish community in particular. Thousands of Kurdish families are displaced as a result of the recent attack, which failed to achieve its purpose as did the previous incursions, said Mahmoud Al Rimawi. Instead of putting an end to Kurdish attacks on Turkish positions, Turkey's repeated raids inside the Iraqi territory have succeeded only in creating social and humanitarian problems for the Kurds and the world community, added the writer. Backed by its affiliation to the NATO alliance, Turkey pursues its drive to crack down on the Kurds with total disregard to humans that get killed or displaced in the operations, added the writer. Saying that Turkey was exploiting the present inter-fighting between Kurdish factions, the writer said that Ankara is launching its war on the Kurds not only in Iraq but also those inside Turkey itself with the ultimate goal of eliminating any hope of the 27 million Kurds living in Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Iran of ever creating their own entity or nation. He said that it is ironic to hear the United States and other Western powers supporting Ankara's repression against the Kurds, a stand that contradicts these powers' former claim that Turkey was creating a safe haven for Kurds fleeing alleged Iraqi repression.

Human Rights File

Rights and duties: A delicate balance

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

More peoples and more countries are showing more respect for human rights. But there are grey areas about the issue that would tax the patience of experts

HUMAN RIGHTS of all sorts are mushrooming under the ever expanding umbrella of human rights. Now we have human rights to eat, drink, play and to marry, to cite only a few examples of new human rights. This is not to mention basic human rights that have already been codified in human rights instruments. The problem lies not here but rather in delineating the difference between a right and a duty. Take for example education. Is it just a right to get education at least through the primary and secondary levels or is it much more than that? I rather think of education as a duty as well in the sense that people are duty-bound to educate their children provided, of course, that their government has also undertaken its end of the bargain by making education available at affordable costs to its people. Education is just one simple example where rights and duties coincide or overlap or even complement one another.

Surely there are other samples of human rights that are also human duties. Take, for example, the right to vote. Many societies have expanded this right to make it a duty as well. Democracy, it is being repeatedly alleged, cannot progress to its logical conclusion without the full participation of the public. Many countries have enacted legislation to make voting an obligation that eligible voter cannot escape from with impunity. Other states have chosen otherwise by insisting that voting is a right that cannot be imposed by law. In countries where there is a jury system of trials, it has become the duty of all citizens to answer the call for this legal obligation under the penalty of the law.

So as we continue to expand the horizon of human rights to include aspects or dimensions of all sorts, there will come a time when we need to be clear as to where rights end and duties begin. With the increasing awareness of the value or rather the necessity of healthy environment, many countries have opted to make smoking in public places illegal. So the right to smoke anywhere has gone down the drain because it contradicted with the right of others to be free from the effects of secondary smoking. The rights to smoke has thus turned around to become the duty of not smoking in public places.

There are grey areas that would surely tax the patience of people engaged in the development of human rights. The

right to marry could be an example. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), for example, has stipulated that individual of a marrying age have the right to marry. Does this mean that every person who has attained the age of puberty has an inherent right to marry? Since this right cannot be exercised in a vacuum, does it follow that the state is duty-bound to make the exercise of this right possible? How about the rights to walk, run, swim and wear clothes? One's imagination can get wild in trying to spell out all sorts of human rights over and above the obvious ones. A very difficult category of human rights is over the right to establish associations and become a member thereof. Can civil servants have the right to form associations to protect their interests and promote their welfare. How about the military? The world is near divided on the right of the military to vote in general elections. Close to our turf, Israeli soldiers take part in Knesset elections. So do soldiers in Western military establishments. In the developing world, there has been fears that allowing the military to exercise a political role would end up politicising it and make soldiers tools for competing political parties or factions. Our experiences in the Middle East are such that would make us think twice before we permit our soldiers to vote. Still, the subject continues to be controversial with no clear answers on how best to proceed.

To sum up, human rights are an ever expanding subject almost like the cosmos. The big bang occurred in 1948 when the Universal Declaration on Human Rights was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly. Ever since, many international bodies were created and each one attempted to expand to its own way the dimensions and scope of human rights.

Under the heading of economic, social and political rights, the sky is the limit as to how far we can go to expand the mandate of human rights. That is why we must all get busy understanding the human rights jurisprudence that has already been developed by many specialised groups before we can expect to come into full grips with the subject. This calls for a specialised examination and pursuit.

M. KAHIL



Europe: Towards an active Mediterranean policy

By Giles Merritt

CAIRO — Less than 25 kilometres from downtown Cairo, and the skyscrapers that have sprouted along the banks of the Nile, the visitor encounters peasant villages that are not so much poor as abjectly squalid. The sight and smell of these collections of hovels, devoid of sanitation and power, is a sharp reminder that the average Egyptian's income is \$600 a year. Small wonder that the fundamentalists of the outlawed Islamic Brotherhood have growing popular support.

Communities such as these are more than a threat to the political stability of Egypt. The hundreds of thousands of poverty-stricken cities, towns and villages of the southern and eastern Mediterranean are a threat to the security and prosperity of Europe.

The risk now being assessed by Europe's policymakers is that waves of mass migration and increasingly violent unrest orchestrated by "political Islam" could spell serious trouble for the European Union (EU).

To different degrees, both countries are stimulating European concern that Islamic politics will spill over into Europe.

The Union's response is to be a Mediterranean strategy almost as ambitious as the economic assistance effort that followed the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism.

The drive to underwrite stability in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has been seen as estimated \$100 billion in international

funding there in the past five years. The European Union has matched its cash with a significant policy rethink, so Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic may be full EU members within five or six years.

Europe's decision to treat the threat of Mediterranean instability as seriously as it did the post-Soviet situation reflects a new awareness that the economic gap between it and its poor neighbours across the Mediterranean is widening dangerously fast.

By 2025 the number of people living in the Islamic crescent that reaches from Casablanca to Istanbul will have grown from 200 million today to more than 300 million. Few economists would dare to guess at where the present 15-to-1 ratio between European and southern Mediterranean incomes will stand by then.

The vicious circle produced by rising birthrates and falling incomes has been compounded by the way Europe turned its back on the Mediterranean basin, both politically and economically. America's lead role in the Arab-Israeli peace process ensured that Europe remained politically distant, while economically Europe's corporations have been attracted to richest markets elsewhere.

The result is that Europe's trade with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian autonomous territories, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey is equivalent to less than 7 per cent of the trade done between the EU

member states.

So sleepy and inefficient have many of the Arab economies become that they barely trade with one another. State-owned industries abound, and have been able to resist streamlining and modernisation. Inward investment has slowed to a trickle, so much so that the Arab countries of the Mediterranean currently receive a mere 3 per cent of the corporate investment made each year in all of the Third World. Arab investors also spurn the region.

Egyptian-owned assets in foreign holdings, for instance, are reckoned at \$60 billion, yet less than \$500 million flowed into Egypt in total investment spending last year.

If the \$2,000 billion in funds held by all Arab countries, including those of the Gulf, were to be mobilised, perhaps the Mediterranean economies could be kick-started into a growth pattern that would attract soaring unemployment and backward technologies. But Arab solidarity is unlikely ever to extend that far.

The strategy now being put together by the European Union takes a different approach. The key is to be the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean free trade area.

Rather than negotiate its terms on a bloc with the Arab countries, the Union has begun to establish bilateral pacts. The first to be completed was with Tunisia, and others are under discussion.

The European Commission in Brussels believes

that once these bilateral association agreements are in place, a de facto trading zone will have been created. It will be comparable, say the Eurocrats, to EFTA, the European Free Trade Association, which for many years paralleled the European Community.

The strategy will be fine-tuned at a Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference in Barcelona on Nov. 27 and 28 that will bring the 15 EU governments together with those of the 12 Mediterranean partners, including Israel.

As well as the trade pacts, which will take up to 12 years to become fully fledged, the Union is planning to boost its spending in the area substantially. It will shift the emphasis away from aid, and particularly project aid, to much more technical assistance in areas like privatisation, training and know-how transfers. A top priority will be to help entrepreneurs in these countries adjust to the chill winds of free trade with Europe.

The aim is to open up to international trade and investment economies that have for too long been closed and protected by their governments. The \$3 billion or so a year that the Union will be spending directly and in the form of soft loans from its European Investment Bank is intended to bring the Mediterranean partners into a wider economic area, and at the same time to create a new "zone of security".

A number of doubts and unanswered questions hang over this European initiative. Will the Union pour in

the sort of resources needed, and put together something resembling the Phare development and assistance programme that has made such an impact in Eastern Europe? Creating the organisational structure for such a long-term strategy is expensive and complicated. It is far from certain that the political will exists in the higher reaches of the Union, for there is no groundswell of public opinion demanding a Mediterranean strategy.

So far, the Mediterranean effort has chiefly been driven by France, Spain and Italy. What signs are there that the northern European member states of the Union, and Germany in particular, will commit themselves to a 15-year undertaking that could eventually overtake the Union's spending in Eastern Europe?

The creation of a new Mediterranean order requires more than just another EU assistance programme. The heart of the matter is cultural. If Europe's Arab neighbours have decided that they want to be part of this wider Mediterranean community, they must quickly set about turning themselves into open, pluralistic and democratic societies. And Europeans have to renege themselves to abandon fear and mistrust of the Muslim world.

Until the Mediterranean's religious and cultural divide can be bridged, it is unlikely that the economic gulf will be narrowed.

International Herald Tribune.

Sudan, West at odds over terrorism charges

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

KHARTOUM — Sudan's Islamist-backed government has rejected Western charges it is a haven for terrorists and challenged its opponents to come up with evidence to back their claims.

The mutual accusations resurfaced when Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said a Sudanese national masterminded the failed attempt on his life in Addis Ababa last week.

Sudan has denied any involvement and said it was proved innocent by an Ethiopian announcement that five of the gunmen in the shooting were all Egyptians.

But Western diplomats say they have enough evidence that "terrorist and violent extremist groups" are active in Sudan, including Egypt's Al Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group), which on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the attack on Mr. Mubarak.

"Our concern is that these groups are based here. This is a safe haven for these groups. They are free to move, free to travel and they live securely. The Sudanese government is clearly providing support to them," one Western diplomat said.

Last August Sudan extradited to France the notorious guerrilla Iliyah Ramirez Sanchez, better known by his nom-de-guerre Carlos the Jackal.

Khartoum said its action had proved wrong the charges that it harbours militants, and urged the United States to remove it from a list of states accused of sponsoring terrorism.

Other radical groups in Sudan include Egypt's Jihad (Holy Struggle), Abu Nidal, the militant Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and Lebanon's Hizbollah, the diplomat said.

Egypt, Sudan's eastern neighbour, has often accused Khartoum of training Muslim militant groups and spiriting them across the border to carry out attacks. Uganda and Eritrea have also accused Khartoum of supporting rebel movements.

Asked this week if his country was harbouring terrorists, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Obaid Salah Al Din Atabani replied: "What's the criteria, what's the rule, what's the definition?"

"If you are talking about Palestinian groups like Hamas... ask the Arabs if they consider these groups as terrorists. These people are not terrorists, they are freedom fighters."

"We do not keep any terrorist in Sudan. We do not harbour terrorist groups here. If they have evidence let them produce it," Mr. Atabani said.

Sudanese officials argue that Muslim guerrillas fighting Israeli forces are legitimately defending themselves and Islam. It is the duty of an Islamic country aspiring for a world ruled by Sharia (Islamic law) to give shelter to any Muslim threatened for his faith, they say.

Hassan Al Toubabi, Sudan's most influential religious figure, says Muslims are entitled to use force under certain circumstances.

"If there is aggression from anywhere if there is something that will undermine Islam you have to wage Jihad to reciprocate aggression," Mr. Toubabi told Reuters.

Khartoum sees the accusations as a conspiracy by a colonialist and expansionist West who see Islam as a threat.

Egyptian Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, spiritual leader of the Islamic Group fighting to oust Mr. Mubarak, obtained his visa to the United States from Sudan in 1990. He is now in jail there on charges connected with the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

According to diplomats, wealthy Islamist Saudi businessman Osama Bin Laden was a main financier to the militants.

Feat...
By Graham Ush...
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Palestinian trade unions and the autonomy

By Graham Usher

MOST ISRAELI and Palestinian analyses have focused on the territorial and security implications of Israel's separation policy. But the economic scenarios raised by separation are likely to be no less harmful to Palestinians' national claims of withdrawal and sovereignty. For what "economic separation" augurs is not an eventual disengagement of the Israeli and Palestinian economies in the occupied territories, but their reintegration, realised via an Israeli-driven relocation of Palestinians' most precious economic commodity — labour. Israel and the Palestine National Authority's (PNA) chosen instrument for this restructuring are "industrial zones."

On June 8, Sami Hulaila, an official of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), announced that the PNA and Israel had agreed to establish nine industrial zones inside the Palestinian autonomous areas, with three in Gaza and six in the West Bank. Each costing around \$70-100 million (and paid for by different donor countries), the aim of the zones is to create 30,000 new Palestinian jobs over the next three years. Israel, says Mr. Hulaila, will be responsible for the zones' infrastructure and security, the PNA for their "land, legal supervision and labour."

This last is the crucial component. With Palestinian unemployment currently running at 30 per cent in the West Bank and 50 per cent in Gaza, the zones' chief draw for private capital is going to be the vast reserves of jobless Palestinians that surround them. "Palestinians, land and soil is open for you all to come and invest," Yasser Arafat told a gathering of business people in Amman on May 24. "We will give you whatever incentives

and facilities you need to ensure your security and profit."

The prime incentive, clearly, is profit, delivered and ensured by a branch-plant economy based on super-exploitation. But the condition for this is that Palestinian labour remain in the autonomy what it had become under the occupation — a low-wage and unorganised workforce, an underclass.

Palestinian workers' political weakness

On the face of it, this is a dangerous assumption, since by far the strongest potential economic sector in the occupied territories is the Palestinian working class. According to the Democracy and Workers' Rights Centre (DWRC) in the West Bank, in April 1993 the Palestinian labour force consisted of 339,000 workers, with 90,000 working in the West Bank, 60,000 in Gaza and a colossal 189,000 in Israel. Yet both before the Oslo agreement and after, the political sway of such economic muscle was almost wholly debilitated. There were three main reasons for this.

First, due to the occupation and the chronic economic dependency on Israel it produced, Palestinian workers comprise, in the opinion of labour journalist Joost Hilterman, "a nascent migrant-worker class of predominantly nationalist orientation." The typical nature of their work in both Israel and the territories has been casual, informal, unskilled and itinerant, with all the attendant problems this has for effective trade union organisation. Palestinian workers have also historically viewed their main adversary as less their own bourgeoisie than the military occupation. When they did take collective action, as during the uprising, class demands were subordinate to nationalist demands. The upshot was — and is — an extremely low level of trade

union consciousness.

Second, since Oslo, Palestinian workers in Israel have been reeling from an unprecedented onslaught on their jobs and livelihood. From April 1993 onwards, Israel has repeatedly closed the territories not just as a collective punishment for Palestinian "security" offences, but as a means of segregating Gaza and the West Bank from "sovereign" Israel and from each other, to whittle down the number of Palestinian workers inside the Green Line. By April 1995, Israel had imported over 60,000 foreign workers from Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe to do the jobs Palestinians once did, so that today there are no more than 28,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories employed inside Israel. The result is massive Palestinian unemployment, and a fall in annual income earned in Israel from \$920 million to \$400,000 in 1994.

Third, the official Palestinian trade union movement has been hindered by PLO factionalism. Prior to Oslo, there were no fewer than three "general" trade union federations operating in the territories: A Fatah-controlled union in Gaza and two in the West Bank, one a bloc made up of Fatah, Palestine People's Party and Popular Front unions and the other aligned with the Democratic Front. Riven by political disputes, the federations competed with each other for members, patronage and turf. The result was a spread of factional unions across the territories that was in inverse ratio to their influence among Palestinian workers. By 1993, there were 161 "political" unions in the West Bank and Gaza, but with a combined membership of no more than 6,000, most of whom were factionally affiliated.

Oslo appeared to instill a degree of realism on Palestinian unions, though without challenging their

factional bases. In October 1993, the three federations agreed to unify their ranks on condition that general elections, based on proportional representation, would be held for a new executive by February 1995. This has not happened. Neither elections nor the unification — says one trade union member in the Gaza federation — is "anywhere on the horizon." On the contrary — says Palestinian community activist, Mustafa Barghuthi — the period since Oslo has seen Palestinian trade unions "regress like never before." "The artificial unity" between factions "did not improve the unions' work," he says, "because none of the leaders were interested in their own union's constituency. In addition, appointment to offices within the union led to a lack of motivation in all types of work, creativity and competition."

Dispute over the Histadrut

These flaws were to prove fatal in what has been Palestinian trade unions' most important challenge since Oslo: Negotiations with the 1.5 million strong Israeli trade union federation, the Histadrut. Under the PLO-Israeli economic "protocol" signed in Paris in April 1994, 75 per cent of all Palestinians' tax and welfare deductions earned in Israel are to be disbursed to the PNA. Of these, one per cent is for union dues. But a dispute subsequently arose over when the deductions were to be backdated. The Palestinian unions held that payment was retrospective to October 1970 — the date when Israeli labour exchanges started to register and tax Palestinians from the territories who worked in Israel. Given that, in the 24 years since, around 700,000 Palestinians have worked legally in Israel, paid taxes to its government but received scant services for

them, the estimated amount owed by Israel to the PNA is between \$1.5 billion and \$3 billion. Of this, \$100 million is union dues.

But the Histadrut argued that the "back-date" should be the Oslo agreement (September 1993), since before that Israel was the de facto government in the territories and workers' deductions helped pay for the "services" it provided there. As for union dues, the Histadrut said that it would disburse \$1-\$1.7 million annually to the unified Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU) on condition that the latter enter an "agreement of cooperation" with it. This would oblige the GFTU to work with the Histadrut on an array of labour issues, including legal rights, training and social welfare. In the opinion of Israeli journalist Assaf Adiv, such an agreement would effectively transform the GFTU into a "department of the Histadrut." Both the Gaza and West Bank GFTU executives flatly rejected the deal — or at least they thought they did.

In August 1994, Mr. Arafat met Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz and suggested a compromise: Palestinian trade unions would receive \$1.7 million annually from the Histadrut and enter its "agreement" with the proviso that the back-date dispute would be "subject to future negotiations." Mr. Peretz agreed, and so did (but without consulting his executives) the GFTU's general secretary, Shahar Said.

When the GFTU executives got wind of the deal, they quickly moved to scupper it. They were led by a new factional player on the scene, Haidar Ibrahim, head of the PLO's formerly Tunis-based but now returned General Union of Palestinian Workers, which "represents" Palestinian workers in the diaspora.

"The Histadrut should know that the GFTU is an indivisible part of the Palestinian trade union movement, regardless of Histadrut attempts to interfere in our internal affairs. The Histadrut must pay the full rights of Palestinian workers since 1970," railed Mr. Ibrahim in December 1994.

The result was that the GFTU's agreement with the Histadrut was frozen almost as soon as it was signed, with Mr. Ibrahim and Mr. Shahar launching an "inside-outside" turf war for control of the GFTU. As for the fate of dues owed to Palestinian workers, this, too, is frozen. The GFTU-Histadrut joint committee set up to address the issue has not met for over six months.

Fight for a labour law

Such manoeuvrings suggest a future for Palestinian trade unions no less plagued by factionalism than its past, only now with the GFTU or its equivalent assuming the augmented role of "state" union for the PNA. If so — says the DWRC's director, Hassan Barghuthi — the challenge facing any potential Palestinian labour movement in the territories is clear. "Our fundamental role is to democratise the unions to put them on an independent footing," he says. "The current factional leadership will then face a choice: Either move aside or be held accountable to their membership by fighting on labour rather than narrowly factional issues."

Is this happening? Mr. Barghuthi's answer is a qualified yes. He cites labour struggles that have occurred in the West Bank and Gaza since Oslo where Palestinian workers have formed their own workplace committees. "These are the nucleus of a new union movement," he says. "The committees deal directly with employers and

decide actions, without intervention from the factions." If this trend can be sustained, Mr. Barghuthi believes there are opportunities for Palestinian trade unions in the autonomy, even in the fraught and unequal relations with the Histadrut. "An agreement with the Histadrut will force Palestinian trade unions to organise around trade union issues," he says. "Whatever the limitations of the Paris protocol, it permits recruitment. And if the GFTU doesn't fight to recruit workers in Israel and the territories, the Histadrut will."

But the cardinal challenge facing any emerging union movement in the autonomy is the staking out of its political independence vis-à-vis the PNA. The crucial issue here will be labour law. "We must fight for the implementation of laws that are consonant with all international Labour Organisation agreements," says Mr. Barghuthi. "At the very least, we must aim to harmonise our laws with those that obtain in Israel."

The labour laws that currently exist in the occupied territories are a mix of Egyptian (in Gaza) and Jordanian (in the West Bank) codes of antiquated origin. In the West Bank, it is legal for minors to work full shifts for six months without pay if their parents or guardians agree. It is unclear where the PNA stands on this, but says Mr. Barghuthi, the signs so far are not encouraging. "In the PNA's draft Basic Law, it states that workers can be paid in wages or in goods. This is in contravention of every international labour law. So in whose interest is this clause? Clearly, it is the old Palestinian land-owning class, who still use payment in kind for their workers."

It is a class that is disproportionately represented in the PNA's current ruling elite, with, according to Mr. Barghuthi, "more than 50 per cent of Arafat's

appointed ministers being either landowners or major employers" from the West Bank and Gaza. Others — such as Planning and Development Minister Nabil Shaath, and Economics Minister Ahmad Qureia — are businessmen from the old Tunis bureaucracy whose economics are "neoliberal" and whose politics anti-labour. There are no genuine representatives of labour among the PNA's 22 ministers, says Mr. Barghuthi. Nor are there likely to be. "Arafat and the PNA are banking on the support of Palestine's bourgeoisie both for investments in the autonomy and for donations to the PNA. This class cannot be alienated."

Given the economic futures envisaged by both Israel and the PNA, Palestinian workers are likely to pay a very high price for autonomy. By the same token, they have the greatest interest in resisting it. Yet, says Mr. Barghuthi, this resistance cannot be channelled along "classic class-struggle forms." Rather, Palestinian trade unions must become a leading force in any broad democratic movement that fights for rights, law and social justice in Palestinian civil society. "Palestinian trade unions cannot be simply self-interested or oppositional in their attitude to the PNA," he says. "In the interim period, our struggle is not going to be confined to economic issues: It will also include law, democracy, human rights, social provision and education — in short, development. The next stage requires a new kind of struggle in which workers take the main responsibility for the welfare of the Palestinian nation."

The precondition for such a role in a genuinely mass-based, democratic and independent trade union movement, the alternative is industrial zones.

Middle East International

Regent urges new role

(Continued from page 1)

the protection of the environment. The Regent also underlined the importance of coordination between the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as well as the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and other institutions in a drive to meet the requirements and in building the infrastructure for the country's projects where ever they are needed. The Regent, who was welcomed

by senior army officers, toured the new premises and was briefed on the general plans for its construction as well as the role of the Royal Engineering Corps in building the facility.

The Regent was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan, Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Prince Firas Ben Ra'd as well as the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Abdul Hafez Mirai.

Kabariti planning Saudi visit

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan sent a new ambassador to Riyadh, Hani Khalifeh, early this year after the Saudi government accepted his nomination. Officials here say Amman is expecting Saudi Arabia to send an ambassador to Jordan soon to fill the vacant post since 1991.

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is expected here by end of this week or early next week, told reporters in Sanaa last month that he was told, during a visit to Saudi Arabia in mid-June, that Riyadh wanted to improve its relations with Jordan after a Saudi-Yemeni reconciliation process was completed.

There have been recent signs that Saudi Arabia was amenable to full reconciliation with Jordan. The Saudi authorities have lifted a ban

on visas for family members to join Jordanian expatriates working in Saudi Arabia and have also eased restrictions on visas being issued to drivers of Jordanian trucks for transit through Saudi Arabia to other Gulf states.

Mr. Kabariti, a member of Parliament who took office as foreign minister in January, has already visited the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, which along with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In informal comments, Mr. Kabariti has spoken of strong and positive signs of improvement in Jordan's relations with all the GCC countries. Former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali visited Saudi Arabia recently. That visit is also seen to have helped the reconciliation process.

Turkish assault continues

(Continued from page 1)

rule based in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir said troops held control of the northern Iraqi regions of Kani Masi, Mergasor and Barzan.

Iraqi Kurdish sources in the region said 15 villages had been evacuated and were controlled by Turkish troops. The Turkish drive, now in its fifth day, initially had air cover but the security officials said no air operations were launched on Sunday.

Turkey's push into northern Iraq followed a six-week campaign against PKK bases in the region starting on March 20.

PKK sources in southeast Turkey said they had lost

only three men. They said Turkish losses were much higher than the six reported by officials, but gave no figure.

The PKK has fought for a separate Kurdish state in the region since 1984. More than 17,000 people have died in the insurgency.

Northern Iraq has been under the control of Iraqi Kurds since 1991 in defiance of Baghdad.

In another development, the KDP accused its rival Kurdish faction in northern Iraq, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), of violating a ceasefire agreement Sunday.

Israel, PLO race to meet deadline

(Continued from page 1)

The sides have agreed to a staged release of Palestinian prisoners, but not the numbers. Some 5,500 Palestinians are in Israeli jails.

Palestinian prisoners ended a 19-day hunger strike after an announcement the deal extending self-rule

would include a staged prisoner release, a PLO spokesman said on Sunday.

Violence erupted in the West Bank briefly on Sunday when 50 Palestinian demonstrators tried to stop Israeli army bulldozers from clearing land for a joint Israeli-PLO liaison office near

Kabatyeh.

Witnesses said troops dragged a protester from his car. A scuffle broke out. One soldier was hit on the head with a rock and taken to hospital. Protesters complained they were not consulted about the six acres being confiscated.

'Iraqis should not be ignored'

(Continued from page 1)

played a role in this arena and continue to do so. We were represented in Madrid but we were not one of the Arab countries that led the way in making the peace with Israel.

"After the Madrid conference, it is incumbent on us to back the peace process... When we saw that the Palestinian people who are the people concerned first and foremost, were the first to hush that step, it was necessary for us to take that direction," Sheikh Hamad said.

Turning to relations with the rest of the world, Sheikh Hamad said: "I believe that the policy which was adopted by us here in Qatar more than four or five years ago proves that we open our hearts to any good bilateral international relations with any other country and we welcome this. There is no change in this position."

Sheikh Hamad declined to explain why he overthrew his father Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani. "As you know this is an internal affair and I have no wish to discuss it," he said, adding: "My father is very dear to me and he will always remain so as he is dear to the Qatari people."

On economic policy, Sheikh Hamad said: "At present we are focusing mainly on developing heavy industries directly related to Qatar's plentiful reserves of natural gas and this is surely the future for Qatar. The plan itself is ready, all we have to do is carry it out."

Washington is building a base near the oil town of Ouhkan on Qatar's western shore, about 85 kilometres from Doha.

Israeli shells kill 2 girls

(Continued from page 1)

months, preventing impoverished fishermen from sailing more than one kilometre offshore.

Police said four dart shells exploded on and around the home of Ali Bader in the town of Nabatiyet Al Fawqa late on Saturday, killed his daughters Jihan and Silvana aged 16 and 11.

Their five-year-old brother Zacharia was in critical condition with nails in his head. Another brother Aahas,

aged 10, a 15-year-old sister named Rabab and 10-year-old cousin Ali Hikmat Aahas were all slightly injured, police said.

Film shot by a Reuters Television cameraman showed dozens of steel darts stuck into the walls of the house. The shells were fired from the Israeli fortified post of Ali Taher on a hill top above the town, a suburb of the market town of Nabatiyet.

Serbs hold 20 Dutch soldiers in new twist

(Continued from page 1)

by Bosnian Serb forces was said to be "very tense" following the further advances by the Serbs.

The men's detention comes only weeks after nearly 400 peacekeepers were released from captivity after the Bosnian Serbs took them hostage in retaliation for North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) airstrikes on a Serb weapons depot in May.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, saying the peacekeeping mission was at a turning point, told his top aides on Saturday in Geneva to lobby the warring parties to agree peace or be ready to pull out U.N. troops.

Bosnian government troops defending the Srebrenica enclave tried to prevent Dutch peacekeepers from fleeing and killed one of the U.N. soldiers in a grenade attack at a roadblock, U.N. spokesman Ettashany said in Zagreb.

Fierce fighting has raged since Thursday in the Srebrenica pocket with the Serbs apparently intent on capturing high ground to the south-

east controlling important supply routes. Bosnian state radio said 4,000 people had fled the fighting in the enclave. The Muslim-led government called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council over Srebrenica.

U.N. commanders asked NATO warplanes to fly over the enclave on Sunday for the second successive day in an attempt to calm the situation but later withdrew the aircraft.

Since NATO jets struck Bosnian Serb positions near Sarajevo in May and a U.S. F-16 was shot down by a Serb missile, the U.N. has been reluctant to call in allied aircraft, fearing even their presence would inflame the situation on the ground.

U.N. officials said they could do little to halt the Serb advance in Srebrenica but said fighting on the edge of the pocket need not be seen as an attempt to seize the enclave.

The boundaries of the U.N.-declared "safe area" around Srebrenica have never been clearly defined.

Independent working group on the future of the U.N. maps out reforms

NEW YORK — Calling for

nations to rethink their cooperative efforts to deal with new challenges to global security and economic and social development in a "vastly altered world," an independent 12-member international group, has released a report recommending significant reforms for the United Nations as it prepares to mark its first 50 years. The work of the independent group, co-chaired by Richard von Weizsäcker, former president of Germany, and Moeen Qureshi, former prime minister of Pakistan, was funded by a Ford Foundation grant in response to a request by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and supported by Yale University's Program in United Nations Studies.

The Foundation has a long history of grant making aimed at strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to secure peace and promote social and economic progress," said Franklin A. Thomas, president of the Ford Foundation. "It is our hope that this report will be an important catalyst as U.N. leaders and member states prepare to meet the challenge of the future."

The United Nations in its Second Half-Century predicts that by the mid-21st century, the nature of statehood and national sovereignty will have evolved dramatically in response to major political, social, economic, and demographic changes. For example, the report notes, since 1945 more than 100 states have come into being and the world's population has increased from 2.5 billion to 5.7 billion. Now, with the end of the cold war, civic, ethnic, and territorial disputes have altered the nature of threats to security. Remarkably that no state by itself will be able to provide broad security for its people, the report

says. "Even the wealthiest and most powerful need to share the burden of common security and the responsibilities of bequeathing a better — even a tolerable — future to the next generations."

Originally established to prevent "the scourge of war," the report notes that the United Nations is increasingly expected to function as the "public service sector" of the world community, but it is not given resources adequate to do so. The report states that in virtually all of the U.N.'s activities, from peacekeeping to development, from human rights to environment, the U.N. must enhance its capacity to advance international cooperation.

At the core of the report's proposals is the creation of three independent but related councils, each of which would perform as a principal U.N. organ. They are a new Economic Council, a new Social Council, and an enhanced Security Council. Membership in each would be adjusted to reflect the "principles of participation and equity in a universal organisation." The General Assembly would remain the principal body in which all U.N. members vote on an equal basis. Among the report's proposals are:

An Economic Council that would formulate guidelines to coordinate the work of all U.N. agencies and international institutions engaged in such issues as fiscal, monetary, and trade policies; the environment; and development. And advisory council would assist the Economic Council in promoting cooperation among member states as well as with the private sector.

A Social Council that would integrate all U.N. activities related to social development as well as urgent matters of human rights, humanitarian affairs,

and efforts to rebuild societies in distress.

The Economic and Social Councils should then form a Global Alliance for Sustainable Development. It would meet annually at the highest levels of government to set objectives on major issues of economic and social concern and to mobilise the full machinery of the U.N. system in implementing programmes of action.

To ensure greater legitimacy and effectiveness, Security Council membership should be increased from 15 to approximately 23 members to be selected for their representativeness and their willingness to contribute to U.N. peacekeeping and enforcement operations.

The U.N.'s peacekeeping, peace-enforcement and peace-building operations should be clearly distinguished and each mandate made explicit, a rapid-reaction capability should be developed. To veto power should be applicable only to peacekeeping and enforcement measures.

New sources of public funding, through taxes and fees derived from use of the global commons, should be explored to ensure adequate resources.

The report stresses that such reforms will require "the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity" in an international civil service that respects diversity and gender equity. It emphasises that success will also depend on strong and assertive leadership at the highest levels, both national and international, adding that the Secretary-General "must provide the moral authority, intellectual stimulus, and the organisational skill to sustain the credibility and effectiveness of the world organisation."

The Ford Foundation

Kuwait MPs seek laws on privatisation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti parliamentarians, voicing fears a privatisation plan could help create monopolies, said on Saturday they were in favour of laws to govern the sale of the emirate's stake in local firms and public services.

"There is no fear from privatisation if there was a law that prevents monopoly," deputy Jasssem Al Sager told parliament in a debate on privatisation and general financial issues.

Deputies expressed concern that the sale, in the absence of clear and stan-

dardised plans, could serve a small group of investors who might create monopolies.

Since 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait, the Kuwaiti government has had a programme to sell its stake in 60 local firms and some basic services like telecommunications, power and water.

Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Managing Director Ali Al Bader was quoted as saying the state had sold shares in seven public firms listed on the Kuwait

Stock Exchange worth about \$1 billion since mid-1994 in a fledgling privatisation plan.

Mr. Bader said KIA, the government investment arm, still holds shares with an estimated market value of \$50 million dinars (\$1.8 billion) as well as smaller holdings.

Parliament recommended that the government should table bills that govern all privatisation operations, set measures to protect consumers and prevent monopolies, allowing the state to control prices for services.

Parliament's recommenda-

tions are not binding for the government.

Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan agreed in parliament that there should be regulations to govern the private sectors' handling of firms and services which once belonged to the state, but opposed calls to freeze the privatisation process until a clear plan is reached.

"There might be some negative aspects that come along with the privatisation operation but that should not bring the programme to a

halt," he said.

Parliament also recommended that the government should revise a 1955 tax law to, for the first time, require all public and private sector concerns to pay a corporate tax.

Currently only foreign concerns operating in Kuwait pay a slab-tax ranging between five and 55 per cent on their profits.

The recommendation said the tax law should "suit the financial and economic circumstances in Kuwait."



The industrial ministers of the European Union took over the EU presidency July 1 for the next six months (AFP photo)

Iran still aims to unify exchange rate system

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's central bank still aims to unify the country's foreign exchange rate system, bank Governor Mohsen Noorbakhsh said in comments carried by the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

"The government was forced in May to devalue the rial and effectively abolish the free foreign exchange market, widely seen as a key element in achieving a single exchange rate, after the rial lost almost half its value against the dollar in four months."

"Noorbakhsh stressed... that the government is trying to adopt a consistent policy that will unify a singular ex-

change rate system in the country," IRNA reported late on Saturday.

"In order to do so the monetary system as well as the money circulation policy must be consistent and homogeneous," the governor was reported to have said.

IRNA did not say if the governor set any date for restoring the free market or a target date for a single exchange rate.

Unifying Iran's multi-layered exchange rate system is a key target in President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's economic reform programme.

But a near-collapse this year in the value of the rial

against the dollar has frustrated attempts to attain a single and fully convertible rate for the Iranian rial.

To control the value of the currency the government overnight closed semi-official foreign exchange offices and forced Iranian exporters to obtain and repatriate all of their foreign currency earnings through the central bank.

These measures came weeks after U.S. President Bill Clinton announced a trade and investment embargo against Iran, which led Iranians local people to dump rial for dollars because of fears that the U.S. sanctions would fan inflation.

IRNA quoted the bank governor as saying new rules covering exporters' access to foreign currency had been successful.

"Noorbakhsh went on to say that the framework adopted for export policy has worked well and considered it favourable for the exporters since it created a secure environment for foreign transactions," IRNA reported.

He said the government would need \$3.6 billion to secure "essentials items in the current year" and that \$1.8 billion of hard currency had been allocated for the industrial sector to draw on by using letters of credit.

"He underlined that the allocated two-digit figure budget for the letters of credit will be available for a long time to come," IRNA said.

Mr. Noorbakhsh acknowledged that money supply had previously been higher than expected and that this had led to inflation and complications in unifying the exchange rate system during the country's first five year plan (1989-1994).

"Liquidity soared higher than the predicted limit, which in turn rocketed inflation to an average of 25 per cent that also affected the exchange rates," IRNA reported.

Summer slowdown hits Arab markets

DUBAI (R) — The start of the quiet summer season depressed trade on many Arab stock markets last week, where most share prices kept well within recent ranges.

Kuwait's exchange provided the only excitement on an otherwise dull landscape, extending recently sharp gains on persistently healthy demand for key banking stocks.

In active dealings the overall share index jumped four per cent or 44 points, as it did the previous week, to 1,109 points. Volumes leapt 33 per

cent to 264 million shares.

Dealers said news the central bank would raise the interest rate on government bonds, which account for 35 per cent of bank assets and are crucial to their profitability, boosted demand.

The market also found support from talk that government had approved a bill easing terms for the repayment of \$20 billion in bad debt. This was confirmed by cabinet after the close.

National Bank was up 75 fils in the week to 560, Gulf Bank rose 30 to 300 and Commercial Bank jumped eight fils to 144.

Burgan Bank closed up at 214 fils from 188 the week before.

In slow summit dealings in Egypt, the index extended its decline to hit a fresh nine-month low of 218.89 points.

In Bahrain, demand for banking shares lifted the index 9.34 points to 1,296. Activity picked up with 5.3 million shares changing

hands from 3.2 million the previous week.

United Arab Emirates shares ended a week of low-volume trade mostly unchanged as the recent spate of high bids which buoyed select shares to record highs petered out.

A five dirham jump in market leader Etisalat to 815 lifted the National Bank of Abu Dhabi index 13.31 points to 1,862.22.

Share prices on Qatar's unofficial market were mixed. Dealers said the market was encouraged, but trade unaffected, by Monday's emiri decree setting up an official exchange.

Banking shares did well, with Qatar national bank up two riyals at 512. Doha bank gained a riyal to 211.

In Saudi Arabia, the index extended the previous week's losses to end one per cent down at 128.56 points.

In Morocco, Jordan and Oman trade was thin and featureless.

EU ministers to tackle single currency obstacles

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Two of the major obstacles to Europe creating a single currency by the end of the century are to be tackled when European Union (EU) finance ministers meet here today (Monday).

For the first time, the ministers are to discuss the problems that will result from a hard core of countries moving to a single currency while others stay outside.

The issue was pushed to the top of finance ministers agenda by last month's Cannes summit, where EU leaders agreed the potential implications for the single market had to be addressed.

Monday's council is also due to take stock of the progress member states have made in harmonising their economic performances in preparation for the switch to a single currency, particularly

in terms of meeting targets on national debt and budget deficits laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

The clear message that will emerge is that there is still a lot of work to be done, some of it involving painful cost cutting, even for leading single currency contenders such as Belgium and France.

In total, twelve of the 15 EU member states will be sent away with a stern "must do better" warning from the European commission and a set of recommendations designed to bring them up to the standards of the current star pupils: Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg.

The recommendations will hold few surprises however: they are largely in line with the proposals put forward by national governments which are either legally bound by

the Maastricht targets, or, as in the case of Britain and Denmark, regard the reduction of deficits as a desirable policy goal in itself.

France has been instrumental in getting the EU to face up to the in-out issues involved in creating a single currency.

While France is seen as a certain member of the first group of states moving to lock exchange rates, two of its major trading partners, Britain and Italy, are unlikely to be in.

Italy's budget deficit is forecast at 8.1 per cent of GDP in 1996, giving it no chance of meeting the three per cent Maastricht guideline. Britain should meet the targets but is politically uncertain about giving up the pound.

What gives France nightmares is the prospect of these two states, as well as Spain, being free to use devaluation as an instrument of economic policy and undercut French producers who would be irrevocably locked in to a hard Eurocurrency based on the German mark.

The most frequently touted solution is an exchange rate grid between the single and other EU currencies along the lines of the European monetary system (EMS) currently in place.

The EMS however has been unable to prevent devaluations for the British pound, Spanish peseta and Italian lira over the last few years. It would also be very difficult to persuade Britain to return to a system which was blamed for exacerbating

the recession of the early 1990's by keeping interest rates artificially high.

Another solution would be to delay a switch to a single currency until all four big European economies — Britain, France, Germany and Italy — were ready to move together.

That would mean ditching the Maastricht commitment that exchange rates must be locked by Jan. 1, 1999, at the latest and would be politically

difficult for the countries most likely to form the hard core (Germany, France, the Benelux states and Austria).

There has however already been some retreat from Maastricht with the acknowledgement at Cannes that 1997 is no longer a viable starting date. Some EU

observers believe it is now only a matter of time before the taboo on casting doubt on 1999 is also broken.

Oman signs oil concession deal with Total

MUSCAT (R) — Oman and the French company Total on Sunday signed an upstream oil concession agreement covering the Siwan area in central eastern Oman, the Omani Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals said in a statement.

Under the agreement, Total undertakes to spend a minimum of \$66 million over the coming nine years in carrying out expanded exploratory projects in its Siwan concession.

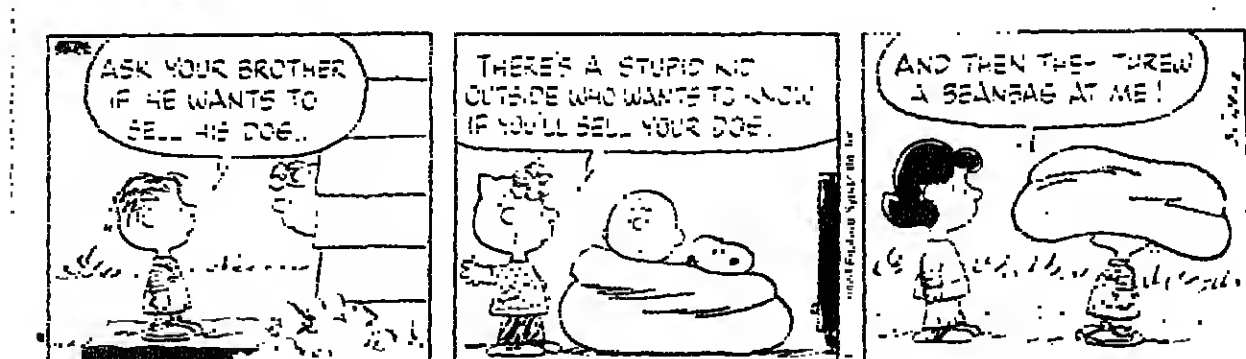
The work will include the drilling of four deep exploratory wells and seismic work, the statement said.

Total already has a stake in government-owned Petroleum Development Oman which accounts for over 90

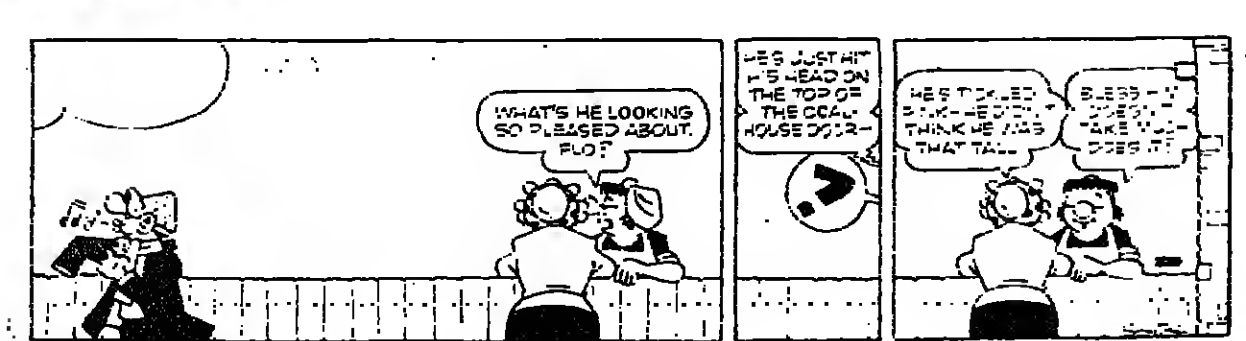
per cent of the country's 850,000 barrel per day (BPD) oil output.

It is also a partner in the country's \$4 billion project to export liquefied natural gas from the end of the decade.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



It may be a detail but it's a "DAJANI'S"

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THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"There you go again, acting like the whole universe revolves around you!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Havel Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these 10 jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FINKE
WYLO
GLEPED
GINDHI

Print answer here: _____

Answers tomorrow!

CLUES: BY THE SKIN, AUTUMN REFUGE, WHAT THE TIGER WAS CONSIDERING THE DAY BEFORE A STEELING ITSELF

HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 10, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The triple Moon in Capricorn conjunction to the Sun, Mercury and Neptune adds power to this New Moon which starts our New Year off with a positive bang in more ways than are immediately apparent.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can improve relations with others very easily. Put yourself in their shoes in order to understand their position better.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Quiet activity is your best mode of procedure now, so get busy and gain your aims easily. Show more affection for your loved ones.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have every chance to contact good friends and gain their cooperation for your ambitions. A good day for chat shopping done.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) If you want to accomplish something in the outside world, wear a smile. Try to please your mate more.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make new contacts and cultivate them for more support in the future. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets and wants to make it his or hers.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You get fine ideas as to how to have more rapport with your mate. Your intuition tells you how to deal with one in business.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) See those clever friends who are inclined to push you into doing things which are advantageous to you. Avoid a tricky individual today.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you use a different approach at whatever tasks you get into, you can soon finish them. Take it easy tonight with your loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to be with those you are most fond of and who are congenial and fun to be with. Get your appearance at its best.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day for having a delightful time at home with kin and others, invite friends and close associates who are charming into your home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get in touch with persons whom you like but have not seen in some time. Then get out and visit people who are very close to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Make your home more charming by adding art objects, etc. Handle small repairs around your home and you can save yourself a lot of money.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flungren

ACROSS
1 Big hand dance
5 Of the
10 History
14 To shelter
15 — real
16 Can you
17 Literary make
18 Pushover
19 Unpleasant
20 Stopped
21 Fragrant
22 Giddy, flitting
23 Poem variation
24 Fine of badly
25 Don't say
26 Low's partner
27 Curious
28 Surprise attack
29 Pacino and Hart
30 Down follower
31 Pushover
32 Name
33 Quizzes
34 Tropical zone
35 Identical copy
36 Quizzes
37 Bacon stop
38 State of Ohio
39 Fish
40 Acorn range
41 Tip
42 Snatch
43 Sued evening
44 By League
45 Name
46 Clarity
47 Confined
48 City of the
49 Name
50 "Panic"
51 Playwright
52 Chinese
53 Multisyll
54 Advantage

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3 — Bashful
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5 Before mind
6 — death
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Friday's Puzzle solved:

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Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Jordan develops 'Beetle' cars

The Armed Forces Royal Maintenance Corps managed to develop the two-door German Volkswagen car, by adding two more doors to it after increasing its length by 30 centimetres, thus making it convenient for small-size families.

The developed "Beetle car," tested by all the concerned authorities, including the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Traffic Department, has proved to be very efficient and practical. Brigadier Yazan Ajlouni, the commander of the force's Amman Central Workshops, said the idea of developing the car was the brainchild of retired Lieutenant-Colonel Musa Mahmoud who exerted strenuous efforts along with his colleagues in the force to accomplish this achievement. He said the car was presented to His Majesty King Hussein as a gift on his birthday, Nov. 14, 1994. The King then conferred Royal medals upon those involved in the project. Brig. Ajlouni said the force has also succeeded in rebuilding 140 two-door out-of-service Volkswagen cars which saved the force about JD 250,000. He said the force was currently holding contacts with the Volkswagen manufacturing company in Germany to register the new invention with them. He added that the force's workshops intend to establish spare parts factories in Jordan to save the Kingdom badly-needed hard currency spent on buying them from abroad (Al Ra'i).

The drop in international coffee prices will not be felt in Jordan for two months, coffee traders said. The traders noted that coffee in the Jordanian market will continue to be sold at the old prices until the market starts receiving new shipments of coffee at the new prices. One of the traders said no new shipments of coffee are expected in the Kingdom before two months. The trader said the quantities available currently in the market were purchased at the previous high prices and accordingly were cleared through customs at those prices. The Ministry of Supply, which controls prices in the Kingdom, does not interfere in coffee prices. Importing and distributing the commodity in the local market, which consumes some 9,000 tonnes of coffee annually, is monopolized by four merchants (Al Ra'i).

Jordan welcomes hosting a conference of Asian ministers of commerce and industry in Amman in the period January 7-12, 1996, Jordan's envoy to the Geneva headquarters of the U.N. Fawwaz Sharaf said in an address (Al Dustour).

Jordao won the first prize in the Arab Ceramic Industries Conference which concluded recently in Tunisia for its contributions to the success of the conference (Al Ra'i).

Gas project steers Qatar to dominance

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Qatar, a minor OPEC member, is set to become a dominant force in the global energy market as it presses ahead with the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, experts say.

Sitting on the third biggest natural gas reserves in the world, the tiny Gulf oil producer expects to become the top LNG supplier when the giant North Field project is commissioned in a few years.

Japan, South Korea and several other Asian countries will be heavily reliant on its LNG under long-term supply deals, as the continent is set to become one of the biggest gas consumers in the world after the year 2000.

Qatar's new ruler, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who overthrew his father in a bloodless palace coup last week, is expected to push ahead with the two-phase venture and spur fresh investment in the world's largest gas reservoir.

"From the way he has run Qatar in the past two years, one can see the economy is one of Sheikh Hamad's priorities," an oil-industry official in Doha said.

"He will probably open

the door for more investment in gas as this will expand the country's industrial base and diversify its economy."

The North Field project, part of which has been launched, will eventually produce around 16 million tonnes of LNG, according to the government, exceeding the 13.8 million tonnes produced by the world's current top LNG exporter, Indonesia.

Investments in the scheme are expected to total more than \$10 billion, provided by the Qatari government and several foreign partners, including U.S.-based Mobil and Total of France.

The North Field venture will tap the emirate's huge natural gas reserves, officially estimated at 7.079 trillion cubic metres (235.9 trillion cubic feet). They are third in reserves in Russia and Iran.

"There is no doubt the project will transform Qatar from a negligible oil producer into a dominant force in the world's energy market, given the growing significance of gas as a cleaner source of energy," an oil executive said.

Qatar is the second-smallest oil producer in the

12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), with an output quota of 378,000 barrels per day (bpd). Gabon, which has threatened to pull out, has a quota of 287,000 bpd.

Experts said Qatar's massive gas reserves would also enable it to expand its petrochemical industry and secure further funds to finance development.

They noted that at the production rate expected from the North Field venture, its gas reserves could last more than 360 years. This is in contrast with its small crude reserves, estimated at around four billion barrels.

The amount of income the North Field project will fetch Qatar is unclear, but experts said this depended on the supply contracts with buyers.

However, they added the earnings would be sizeable given the large production and the growing consumption of gas in Asia and other areas.

Independent estimates showed world gas demand is growing faster than that of oil as several countries are switching to gas due to increasing environmental con-

cerns. A breakdown showed that while oil demand is projected to increase by around 62 per cent to 91 million bpd in the year 2020 from 56 million bpd in 1990, gas consumption is forecast to more than double to 71 million equivalent bpd from 34 million equivalent bpd.

Gas demand could reach around 73 million equivalent bpd with higher economic growth.

Qatar also plans to supply its oil-rich Gulf neighbours with natural gas through an ambitious pipeline project, and has announced its willingness to sell gas to Israel.

"Qatar, as an oil country like its neighbours, will be much different," Ihsan Abu Huleika, an expert at the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, wrote Saturday in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej.

Iran parliament to probe central bank activities

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament is to launch a probe into the central bank's activities over the past five years, in the first such inquiry since the 1979 Islamic revolution, assembly sources said Sunday.

The investigation will date back to the tenure of former central bank governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli, who was replaced in September by Mohsen Nurbakhsh, they said.

The bank has been widely blamed for the country's economic crisis, notably for the sharp rise in Iran's foreign debt — estimated at around

\$35 billion. The authorities were forced in May to freeze the dollar rate in a bid to stabilise the national currency and curb soaring inflation.

The decision came amid the rising public distrust of financial authorities over a \$200 million embezzlement at a state bank in Iran.

The brother of a top official has been arrested over his role in the scam, which took place in 1992. The central bank and the economic ministry have been criticised for failing to take appropriate measures to prevent such frauds.

Arabs need \$20 billion for refining expansion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states need to invest nearly \$20 billion to upgrade their petroleum products and boost refining production capacity to meet growing world demand, an official report said Saturday.

Current Arab refining output capacity is estimated at around 285 million tonnes per year (5.7 million barrels per day) and the level will rise to around 300 million tonnes (six million b/d) in the year 2000, said the report by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

"Upgrading and expansion of Arab refineries require investment of around 20 billion until the year 2010 in circumstances where the profit margin is receding," the Kuwait-based group said in its July bulletin, obtained here.

"Arab states should continue projects to modernise their refineries and improve their efficiency in response to expected changes in world demand for refined products and in line with environmental legislation."

The study said expansions would create a surplus in the local market in most refined products except gasoline, kerosene and jet fuel.

It gave no breakdown for refining output but around one third is produced in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter. Other key refining producers are Kuwait, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Early this year, the UAE approved a 1.5-billion-dollar project to double its Ruwais refinery to around 280,000 b/d after expanding the capacity of Umm Al-Faraj refinery to more than 70,000 b/d at a cost of \$80 million.

"Arab nations should boost coordination in the refining industry to maintain the advanced position of their products in the market," OAPEC said.

OAPEC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, UAE, Egypt, Syria, Algeria and Libya. It controls more than 60 per cent of the world's oil and 20 per cent of the global gas reserves.

UAE to set up more desalination plants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to set up three more desalination plants to cater for growing domestic consumption, the Al Khaleej newspaper reported on Sunday.

The government has approved 240 million dirhams (\$65.4 million) for the projects in the northern emirates of Ajman, Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah, said Al Shamsi, under-secretary at the ministry of water and electricity, told the paper.

"Bids have been invited for consultants to prepare studies on the projects and local needs," Mr. Shamsi said. Like other desert Gulf oil producers, the UAE relies heavily on desalinated sea water, which provides nearly 70 per cent of its drinking water.

The UAE currently produces nearly 250 million gallons of water (900 million litres) per day and the level will sharply rise when a multi-billion-dollar hydro-electric project at Al Tawila in Abu Dhabi is completed in 2000. It will produce around 100 million gallons (380 million litres) per day.

Water consumption in the emirates is increasing by around 10 per cent a year because of a steady growth in the population and industrial and agricultural expansion.

Mr. Shamsi told another newspaper, Al Itihad, that a project to link power networks in the UAE's seven emirates would be completed in 1998. He gave no details but official estimates have put costs at 750 million dirhams (\$204.3 million).

Saudi, World Bank sign memorandum

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia and the World Bank have signed a memorandum to encourage foreign investors to forge joint venture deals with the Saudi private sector, the Saudi Press Agency SPA said.

The memorandum was signed on Saturday by World Bank President James Wolfensohn and Saudi Finance Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ali Abal-Khalil in Jeddah.

The agency said the memorandum aimed at "encouraging foreign investors to enter into joint ventures in the Kingdom with the private sector through the International Investment Guarantee Agency, which is an affiliate of the World Bank."

SPA said Mr. Wolfensohn and Mr. Abal-Khalil also discussed World Bank finance for projects in developing countries, and a technical cooperation agreement under which Saudi government institutions could approach the World Bank to provide ex-

perts or carry out studies. Mr. Abal-Khalil said they also discussed the World Bank's cooperation with the Saudi Development Bank "in financing development projects in some developing countries." SPA reported without elaboration.

Mr. Wolfensohn arrived in Saudi Arabia on Friday on a Middle East tour expected to include talks on how the bank could play a role in economic development of the former Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Wolfensohn told reporters in Norway on Friday that he was visiting the Middle East to "ensure that we can play a full role in the economic development of Gaza and the West Bank."

The bank has taken a leading role in coordinating international help for Gaza and the West Bank to help promote peace in the region. Mr. Wolfensohn, due to meet PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli officials, took over as World Bank head on June 1.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 09/07/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK P.C.	450	98040	218.000	218.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	17750	82488	4.630	4.670
HIDDA EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1600	2352	1.370	1.340
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1041	2663	2.570	2.560
THE HOUSING BANK	6850	55762	8.150	8.120
JORDAN KOWAT BANK	2143	4041	2.850	2.830
JORDAN GULF BANK	800	1026	1.280	1.300
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	7500	29375	3.950	3.900
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2251	8424	3.740	3.750
BUSINESS BANK	650	2503	3.900	3.850
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2019	8478	4.200	4.200
WEST BANK SAVINGS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	850	2237	3.850	3.810
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	9180	10342	1.130	1.130
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	500	2650	5.350	5.300
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	75014	117530	1.580	1.590
BANKS SECTOR	128600	430720	INDEX NUMBER: 180.65	CHANGE: +0.022
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	600	1590	2.650	2.650
BELK LAND INSURANCE	500	1485	2.830	2.970
INSURANCE SECTOR	1100	3075	INDEX NUMBER: 135.43	CHANGE: +0.007
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	16072	27198	1.700	1.690
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	6250	17518	2.800	2.830
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1462	3380	2.320	2.390
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1400	1743	1.280	1.230
ARAB LETTER FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3050	10101	3.320	3.310
SERVICES SECTOR	28234	59909	INDEX NUMBER: 132.32	CHANGE: -0.147
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	20	551	24.250	27.540
ATZANP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	300	372	1.240	1.240
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	9547	35904	3.780	3.770
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	1700	5191	3.030	3.050
THE ARAB POTASH	450	2318	5.110	5.150
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	75	773	10.320	10.300
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	154	516	3.390	3.380
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	4936	24346	4.940	4.930
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	2000	12000	6.000	6.000
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	450	1174	2.630	2.610
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	344	1383	3.800	3.800
THE PUBLIC HOUSING	450	1431	3.200	3.180
SPINNING & WEAVING	450	953	2.070	2.050
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	24180	193305	8.000	7.950
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	11800	9141	7.60	7.80
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	300	1740	5.800	5.800
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	19650	10073	5.20	5.10
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	3000	1270	1.390	1.390
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	1474	1949	1.190	1.180
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	4900	16287	2.340	2.350
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2183	4895	2.230	2.230
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	39250	125400	3.210	3.200
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6300	13574	2.170	2.160
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3750	7177	1.930	1.910
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	144083	483441	INDEX NUMBER: 131.15	CHANGE: -0.107
GRAND TOTAL	302017	977145	INDEX NUMBER: 154.21	CHANGE: -0.037
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	19935			
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET	23270			

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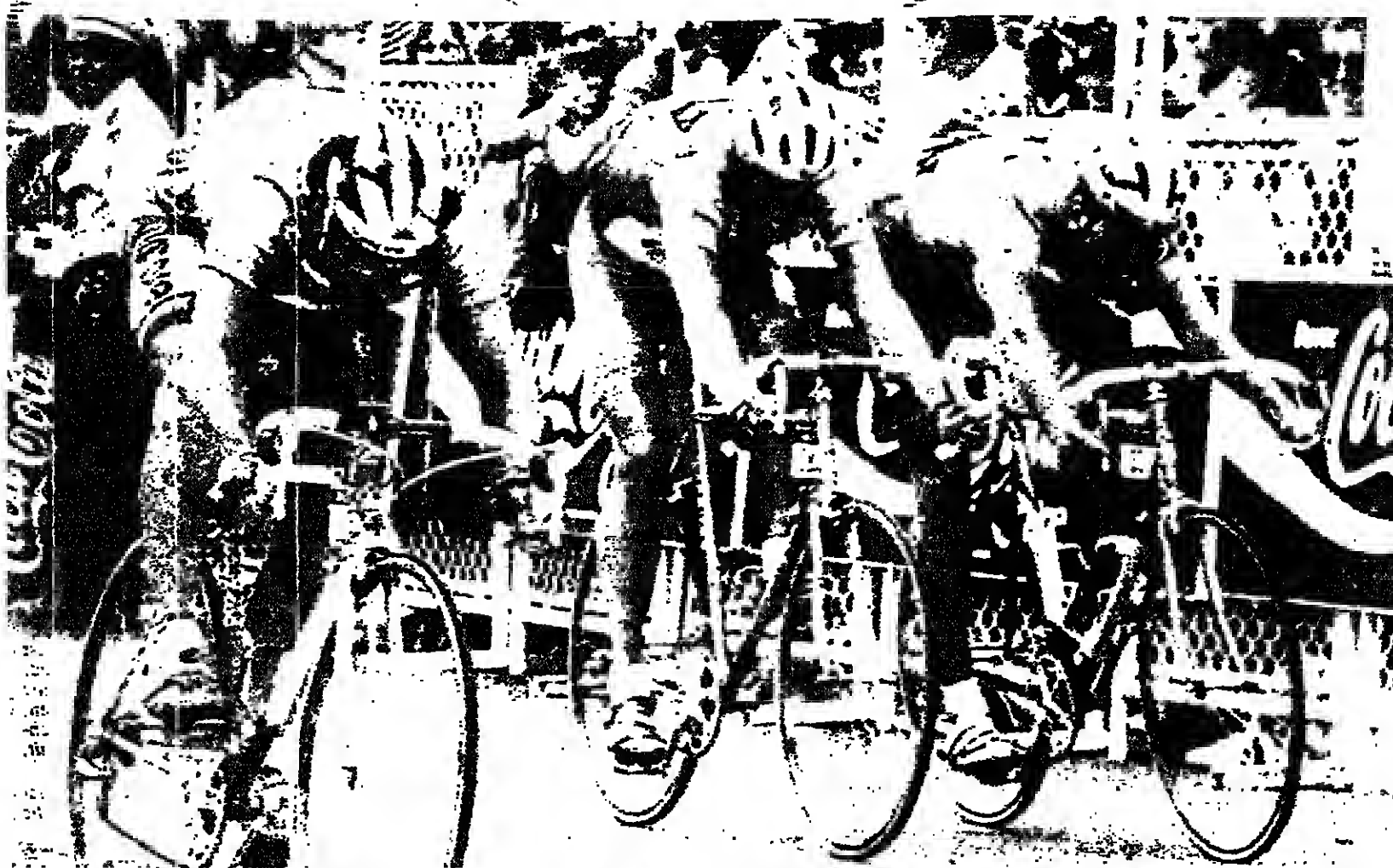
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Uzbek Djamoline Abdoujaparov (left) sprints his way down a stage in the Tour de France (AFP photo)

Indurain makes major move

LIEGE, Belgium (R) — Mighty Miguel Indurain, who struck a major blow to his main Tour de France rivals with a powerful display in Saturday's seventh stage, said he was looking forward to the individual time trial which could see him stamp his authority on the world's greatest cycle race.

"It's a course tailored to my measurements and there will be huge gaps," warned Spaniard Indurain ahead of the 54-km race against the clock from Huy to Seraing in Belgium.

Indurain has few rivals in an exercise he has used in the last four years to pave the way for as many tour victories and the kind of form he showed on Saturday indicated he would be hard to beat.

Second place in the stage behind new leader Johan Bruyneel of Belgium allowed Indurain to move eight places overall up to second and to gain 50 seconds or more on his most dangerous opponents.

Indurain broke away with Bruyneel after the last climb of the day's bumpy, 203-km ride from Charleroi and the two men left the Peloton

helpless as they rushed to Liege, where Bruyneel produced his effort in the last metres of the final straight to treat the home crowd with a stage win.

"It was like being behind a motorcycle for 20 kilometres," said an impressed Bruyneel, who took over the coveted yellow jersey from Dane Bjarne Riis.

"I couldn't move in front but anyway, if I had, it would have slowed us down."

Tony Rominger of Switzerland, widely regarded as the man most capable of depriving Indurain of a fifth consecutive triumph in Paris, said he had been surprised by the Spaniard's attack.

"In the morning, I had seen him at the back of the Peloton and I thought he wasn't too well so I certainly didn't expect him to do something like that," said the world tour record holder. "I would've done exactly the same if I'd had his legs but I didn't."

Indurain not only silenced those who blame him for his lack of panache but he once again proved he was a fine tactician by attacking as soon as his rivals, too busy thinking about intermediate

sprints, forgot to keep an eye on him.

"The first half of the stage, which was the easiest, was eventful because all the teams were fighting for intermediate sprints and lost a lot of energy that way," he said.

"Then, in the second part, we (the Banesto Team) were able to control the race. After attacking, I looked behind me and I saw there was nobody there. So I thought it was a perfect opportunity to hurt the morale of my rivals."

Many thought Indurain would stay comfortably within the pack until the time trial but by deciding to shine a day earlier, the Spaniard managed to score precious points even before demonstrating

his prowess against the clock.

He will set off from Huy with an advantage of 11 seconds on Frenchman Laurent Jalabert, 33, on Swiss Alex Zülle, 42, on Rominger and one minute 34 seconds on Russian Yevgeny Berzov.

All these men have no other choice than to give

their all if there do not want to see Indurain's hunt for a fifth title become merely a formality. But according to Bruyneel, there will find it hard to contest Indurain's supremacy.

"I saw him closely and I can tell you that he is very, very strong," he said.

Points standings (green jersey)

1. Laurent Jalabert (Fra)	155 Pts
2. Djamoline Abdoujaparov (Uzb)	151
3. Mario Cipollini (Ita)	108
4. Erik Zabel (Ger)	98
5. Giovanni Lombardi (Ita)	94
6. Jan Svoboda (Svk)	80
7. Frederic Moncassin (Fra)	74
8. Bjarne Riis (Den)	71
9. Miguel Indurain (Spa)	68
10. Bruno Thibout (Fra)	68

Brazil continues winning streak in volleyball

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Defending champion Brazil overpowered Spain 15-4, 15-5, 15-1 Sunday, moving within one victory of reaching the quarterfinals of the 8th men's junior world volleyball championship.

The Brazilians will enter the last eight if they beat South Korea Monday in Group C. They beat Puerto Rico 15-2, 15-2, 15-3 on Saturday.

In Group A, Finland and Poland both won their second match. Finland downed Malaysia 15-6, 15-4, 15-5 after beating China 15-13, 15-13, 15-9 Saturday.

Monday's Poland-Finland match will decide who will go to the quarterfinals.

In Group B, 1993 runners-up Italy was at 2-0 after beating Greece 10-15,

15-11, 15-9, 15-12 Sunday. It won Saturday by default over Cuba, which did not turn up.

Italy's last group match will be against Venezuela on Monday.

Also at 2-0 were Russia and the Netherlands. The Russians beat India 15-11, 11-15, 15-11, 15-9 Sunday after downing Algeria 15-8, 15-8, 15-3 Saturday. The Dutch beat Algeria 15-13, 15-2, 15-7 Sunday.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

2nd Special Olympian missing

NEW HAVEN (AFP) — a second participant in the 1995 Special Olympics World has gone missing, and authorities said Saturday he may be seeking asylum in the United States. Juan Carlos Balbuena, 20, of the Dominican Republic, disappeared from the Yale University stadium early Friday and has not been seen since then, said David Phelps, a spokesman for Special Olympics International. "We have reason to believe that this is an immigration-related matter. He may be trying to enter the country illegally or seek asylum," Phelps said without elaborating. Phelps said the organizers of the games are concerned about the missing man, but they did not believe he is in grave danger. Balbuena, who is a basketball player, was staying with his colleagues at a college in a nearby suburb of New Haven. Meanwhile, divers had searched the waters near Madison for a member of the Nepal football team at the Special Olympics who is believed to have drowned in his first experience in deep waters. Ramesh Mali, who never learned to swim, has been missing since Thursday. The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search for him Friday, presuming him dead.

Coach Edmondo Fabbri dies

CASTEL SAN PIETRO, Italy (AP) — Edmondo Fabbri, who coached Italy's national soccer team in one of its lowest moments, has died, family members said Saturday. He was 73. Fabbri died late Friday in a hospital near Bologna. The hospital gave no cause of death, but family members said that recently Fabbri was unable to walk without pain. Fabbri coached the national squad in the 1966 World Cup in England, when Italy was ousted in the first round by a 1-0 loss to North Korea. The defeat devastated soccer-mad Italians and Fabbri was soon dismissed. He coached in the Italian League until the mid-1970s then held management posts on several teams.

Fasang new mini-flyweight champ

PATTHUM THANI, Thailand (AFP) — Thailand's Fasang Por Pongsawang defeated World Boxing Federation (WBF) mini-flyweight champion Ronnie Magrango of the Philippines by a unanimous points decision in this northern suburb of Bangkok on Saturday.

Schumacher brands Hill a loser

BONN (AFP) — Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher believes that British Damon Hill is suffering from a "loser's syndrome," according to a Sunday newspaper interview. Schumacher, who convincingly beat Hill in this month's French Grand Prix and leads him by 11 points in the championship, told Welt-am-Sonntag: "For me, he is suffering from some sort of loser's syndrome." The German further rubbished his Williams Renault rival by adding: "It's really fortunate that neither (Heinz Harald) Frentzen, nor (Mika) Hakkinen nor (Jean) Alesi are driving a Williams. "Otherwise, the 1995 season would be much more difficult for me." Williams Renault have won the last three world constructors titles, but Hill remains in Schumacher's shadow. As for his own future, Schumacher said: "For the moment, I'd like to stay with Benetton. I feel good with them." But he added that his decision for 1996 would be based on the quality of the car on offer, not the size of the prize money. Schumacher had paid a said a major German newspaper had paid a large sum for the exclusive rights to his marriage ceremony in September. "If a newspaper makes money out of my marriage, there's no reason why I shouldn't get something too," said the world champion, adding that the money earned would be donated to UNICEF and other charitable agencies.

Recalde wins home rally

CORDOBA (R) — Jorge Recalde won a crushing victory on Saturday in his home round of the World Rally Championship, the Rally of Argentina, driving a Lancia. Easily South America's most successful rally driver, the 44-year-old led from start to finish, comfortably outpacing the similar car of Uruguayan Gustavo Trelles, who was hampered by a lack of power. "It's good for Argentina," a relaxed Recalde said with a smile. However, his second victory in his home rally will earn him no championship points, as this year's event counted only toward the two litre World Rally championship, which excludes four-wheel drive cars such as his Lancia. As a result, maximum points went to Czech driver Pavel Sibera, who took his 1500cc Skoda Felicia to a fine fourth place.

Seles ready for return

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Looking tanned and relaxed, Monica Seles said Saturday she is ready to return to tournament tennis, regardless of her ranking.

Seles spent the day at the Special Olympics World Games, presenting medals, conducting clinics and generally having a good time. And that, she said, is what her return after more than two years from the game is all about.

It took time, Seles said, a lot of time, to get over the emotional and physical trauma of being stabbed in the back during a changeover in a tournament at Hamburg, Germany on April 30, 1993. Perhaps the defining moment came recently in a conversation with her father, Karolj, who doubles as her coach. Seles said she had been dragging around at home, depressed and troubled.

"He said, 'nothing in the world is worth it to me to see you this way.' I decided then it was time to move on and forget what happened," Seles said. "You have to live life. It's time to have fun and play great tennis."

"I feel ready to play, physically and emotionally," she said. "I will do it, at the start at least, without benefit of a ranking, even though she was No. 1 when she was attacked. The WTA tour considered the idea of awarding her a co-No. 1 ranking with longtime rival Steffi Graf, then withdrew the offer. Seles said it made no difference to her.



Former world No. 1 Monica Seles bends low as she instructs special athlete Kim Mustano (right) during a clinic at the Special Olympics World Games in New Haven, Conn. (AFP photo)

"I never asked for any ranking," she said. "It doesn't matter. I'm going to play either way. I'll take wild cards (invitations to play). I just want to go back and have fun. If I'm good, I'll be there."

Seles said she did not watch Graf win her sixth Wimbledon championship earlier Saturday and that she had seen just bits and pieces of the tournament, busy with her own practice schedule.

"After you play or practice, you don't want to see or speak tennis," she said.

Seles is preparing for a July 29 exhibition against Martina Navratilova at the American resort of Atlantic City south of New York City, happy that the match won't carry with it the pressure of computer points. Next for her could be the U.S. Open at the end of August.

"I plan to play the Open," she said. "I want to play the Open. I believe I can do it."

Throughout her day at the Special Olympics — a quadrennial sports event for mostly mentally retarded athletes, Seles seemed happy and comfortable. Security was thick throughout and media were required — by Seles' people, the organizers said — to present two forms of identification for admission.

Seles was wearing a sleeveless blue tennis outfit and smiled broadly, responding to the crowd's enthusiastic welcome by clapping herself. "I was nervous at first because of the crowd and

the electricity," she said. "After 10 or 15 minutes I was comfortable and back to myself."

She congratulated all the winners, hugging one young man. "They truly enjoy themselves," Seles said. "They love everything they do. Professional athletes can learn from them."

Later, during the clinic, she talked to a number of players. At one point, she accompanied 5-year-old Kim Fitzpatrick on the baseline to the net, encouraging her every step of the way until the youngest bit one over.

Seles giggled frequently, signed autographs for the kids on shirts, caps, scraps of paper, anything they came up with. "They kept saying 'welcome back, Monica. It's great to see you.' That meant so much. I had my doubts. They're so smart, so forthcoming. They taught me something."

Seles said she expects it will take time before she gets back on top of her game. "I will need time to get used to the matches and the setting," she said.

There was never a question about coming back, she said. It was just a matter of when it would happen.

Asked if she thought her return would give a boost to the game, Seles smiled. "Women's tennis can survive without Monica Seles," she said. "And Monica Seles can survive without women's tennis. We're both better off with each other."

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Steffi Graf is protected by two policemen while leaving the Wimbledon Championships hours 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 (AFP photo)

Graf promises Wimbledon return

LONDON (R) — Steffi Graf sidestepped rumours she is contemplating retirement after the most exhausting Wimbledon final of her career against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario on Saturday.

Graf, who came into the tournament nursing back and wrist injuries, admitted the two-hour struggle to secure her sixth Wimbledon singles title had left her close to collapse in the final set.

But the 26-year-old German, choosing her words carefully, indicated she would return to defend her title at the All England Club next June.

"I do hope to be back next year, I really count on that," she said, dismissing reports her back condition was threatening to curtail her career.

"I'm maybe cutting down a little bit on tournaments, but I hope (the back's) not going to be in my way."

"It's been very exhausting the last few weeks and I intend to take some time off. Then I'm going to try and work more on my physical condition and build up to the U.S. Open."

Graf teased reporters after her semifinal win over Jana Novotna on Thursday, saying she would be announcing something significant in 10 days time.

She shed no further light on the matter on Saturday, but knows it would be the ultimate irony if she decided to call a halt just as Monica Seles is poised to return to the tournament scene after an absence of more than two years.

Since the infamous knife attack in Hamburg in April 1993, Graf has won six Grand Slam titles and now has a total of 17, one short of joining contemporary greats Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert on 18 major titles.

The latest triumph, though, was only settled deep into the third set after Sanchez Vicario had served with the score at 5-5.

Graf ultimately broke for 6-5, but only after 20 minutes of top-quality tennis which elevated the final to a position among the best.

"Never in my whole life have I played such a long game with so many high quality points," said Graf.

Steffi Graf profile

Steffi Graf was a four-year-old when she first picked up a tennis racket.

It was one of her father's and he sawed off part of the handle so that she could lift it.

From that moment Graf has never looked back.

She first hit major headlines in 1982, when, aged only 13, she won the German under-18 title and joined the professional ranks.

Her love of grass court tennis was clear from the moment she stepped out on court at the All England Club for the first time in 1984, and as she charged through to the fourth round, many observers were already being impressed by her tactical brain and powerful forehand.

Twelve months later she had broken into the top 10 and won eight titles — and in 1987 she dislodged Martina Navratilova from the top of the rankings.

She also beat the Czech-born American in the French Open final that year to win her first Grand Slam title.

The following year she made history with the first 'Golden' Grand Slam. She did this by adding the Olympic gold medal in Seoul to her victories at Melbourne, Paris, Wimbledon and Flushing Meadow.

It was the first time a player had won all four major events since Australian Margaret Court in 1970.

With age catching up with Navratilova and Chris Evert, Graf's dominance over the women's game seemed complete, and she led the rankings for a record 186 weeks before she was dethroned by Monica Seles.

Suddenly, the challenge was on.

Graf's only Grand Slam success in 1991 and 1992 came at Wimbledon. But in 1993 she re-asserted her authority in the perfect manner, bouncing back after losing to Seles in Australia to win the next three majors — although the absence of stab-victim Seles played its part.

Only one Grand Slam (Melbourne) came her way in 1994 when Heinz Gundhardt replaced Pavel Slozil as her coach — and she also crashed out of Wimbledon in the first round.

A chronic back injury meant she could not defend her Australian title at the start of this year but since returning to the tour in February, she has been unbeatable. She has now won 32 consecutive matches.

Steffi Graf's 17 Grand Slam victories:

- 1987 French Open
- 1988 Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open
- 1989 Australian Open, Wimbledon, US Open
- 1990 Australian Open
- 1991 Wimbledon
- 1992 Wimbledon
- 1993 French Open, Wimbledon, U.S. Open
- 1994 Australian
- 1995 French Open, Wimbledon

Wimbledon Championships Sampras makes it three times in a row

LONDON (AFP) — Pete Sampras won the Wimbledon singles title for the third consecutive year here on Sunday when he recovered after dropping the first set to beat three-times champion Boris Becker 6-7 (5/7), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in 2hrs 28 mins on a sun-baked centre-court.

Sampras, the world number-two, is the first player since the legendary Bjorn Borg to win the crown three years running, and his victory comes just one month after his shock first-round elimination from the French Open.

The 23-year-old American has now won six Grand Slam titles among his 34 tour successes. Apart from his three Wimbledon crowns he has also won the 1990 and 1993 U.S. Opens and the 1994 Australian Open.

Sunday's win ends a difficult twelve months for Sampras in which he has failed to retain his United States and Australian Open titles, lost his number-one world ranking to compatriot Andre Agassi, and undergone the trauma of seeing his coach Tim Gullikson taken ill with a brain tumour.

In Sunday's showdown Sampras served 23 aces to 16 by Becker. The German also double-faulted 15 times.

"He's been with me at this tournament I think for eight or nine years and he always yells out in a strange accent of English," Graf said.

"You can always hear him out of the crowd. He's been with me every year, semifinals, finals. I don't know how he makes it but he's always been there."

* Watch Sampras on TV? Noah way: When it comes to letting his 17-month-old son watch TV, Boris Becker exercises his own form of censorship.

"He's actually allowed to watch only my tennis matches," said the three-time Wimbledon champion, who faced Pete Sampras in the final. "Otherwise he's not allowed to watch TV at all."

Becker told the BBC: "And when Pete Sampras comes on, we turn it off."

Becker revealed that his son Noah already is showing an interest in the game.

"When I come home, he puts a tennis racket in his hands and wants to play me. I'm more a tennis player to him, apart from being a father. Hopefully he is aware that the tennis player is a father too."

* Sorry Stan, no kids: There's another shout of "out" at Wimbledon this year.

Stan Smith, Brian Gottfried, Gene Mayer, Sandy Mayer and Vijay Amritraj were among the fathers who entered the over-35s competitions and brought their kids along.

But there are so many kids hanging around that officials at the All England Club are throwing them out of the already crowded locker room.

While most of the kids spent their days playing video games in the players' lounge, Brian Gottfried's daughter, Kelly, and Stan Smith's daughter, Logan, chose to



Pete Sampras

spend some of their time horseback riding.

* Screaming for ice cream: The hot, sunny days at Wimbledon meant that records were broken in the food halls as well as on court.

On Friday, June 30, the hottest day of the 1995 championships when temperatures reached (41.38 celsius) on Centre Court, almost 21,000 containers of ice cream were sold. That is the highest recorded sales of ice cream ever at Wimbledon.

The new offering of gin and tonic sorbet was also a hit — tennis fans consumed some 30,000 tubs of this frozen liquor dessert in the first five days of Wimbledon.

Pimms, the alcoholic drink long associated with this event, increased in sales during the first five days over last year. Over 40,000 half pints of Pimms were sold, almost 10,000 half pints more than 1994.

The traditional strawberries and cream continued to fare well, with around two tonnes of the fruit sold on a daily basis.

The British "fish and chips" has been replaced as a favourite snack by pizza. Sales of Pizza slices were up almost 16 percent from 1994 to 12,500, while fish and

chips fell by 11 per cent to just 9,000.

* Finalists play longest ever women's game: Steffi Graf and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's astonishing marathon 32-point game during Saturday's final is believed to be the longest game in women's singles at Wimbledon since women started playing there in 1884.

Experts said the previous longest ran to 28 points in a 1982 tie-break in a first round match between British pair Virginia Wade and Jo Durie.

Both Graf, who finally won a scintillating match 4-6, 6-1, 7-5, and her Spanish opponent agreed it was the longest game they had ever played.

"It's never happened to me in my career," the German, veteran of 751 singles matches on the women's circuit, said.

"I was tired after that game. I was so tired," she added.

The game, with Sanchez Vicario serving, was the 11th in the final set. It lasted 20 minutes and included 13 deuces.

The Spaniard had eight game points and Graf six break points, the last of which she won to go 6-5 up in the final set.

Wimbledon notebook

* Steffi shares triumph with Egyptian fan: Steffi Graf celebrated her sixth Wimbledon triumph Saturday by running over to a fan who has supported her on centre court for eight years.

Graf shook his hand and the fan, an Egyptian who will only give his name as Ali, stood up, kissed and hugged her.

"I don't know his name," Graf said after her three-set victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. "He just screams to me 'come on Steffi.' But he never mentions his name."

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East West vulnerable South

deals

NORTH

♠ 3 2

♥ 10 8 5 3 2

♦ A K J 6 3

♣ A K J 6 3

WEST

EAST

♠ 10 7

♥ A K Q 8 4 3

♦ A K

♣ J 8 7 4

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J A 6

♥ A K Q J A 6

♦ A K Q J A 6

♣ A K Q J A 6

10 & 2

South West North East

♠ 6 5 4 3 2

♥ 6 5 4 3 2

♦ 6 5 4 3 2

♣ 6 5 4 3 2

Pass - Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

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Since the spades divide evenly, West's five-heart overall could have been doubled for a 500-point penalty. However, we heartily endorse North's decision to raise to five spades.

West led the king of hearts, ruffed in dummy. Declarer looked no further than the club finesse for the contract. The king of clubs was cashed, trumpets were drawn and the ten of clubs was run to East's queen. The defenders then cashed a trick in each red suit—down one.

The club finesse was, at best a 50 percent chance. Since West was marked with long hearts and, therefore, probably fewer clubs than East, chances of this line succeeding were even better than the *a priori* odds would suggest.

Since declarer had no fast entry back to hand for another heart ruff, one possibility was to duck a diamond. However, whichever defender won the diamond would surely return a trump and declarer would be back to relying on the club finesse.

The chances of clubs breaking 3-2 are slightly better than 2-to-1. That should be all anyone needs to know to select the superior line. After ruffing the heart at trick one, declarer should simply lead a low club from the table! The best the defenders can do, as the cards lie, is cash a diamond. When declarer regains the lead, trumps are drawn and 11 tricks roll in.

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Damascus declaration slams Jewish settlements, backs Syria

MANAMA (AFP) — Syria, Egypt, and the six Arab Gulf states on Sunday called for a peace deal based on a total Israeli withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights and denounced Jewish settlements on Palestinian land.

The eight countries, which signed the Damascus declaration aimed at boosting security and economic cooperation after the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, "renewed their support for Syria's just demands."

After a two-day meeting, they called for "a total withdrawal from the Golan beyond the June 4, 1967 (armistice) line," as demanded by Damascus. Israel occupied the Golan Heights

during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The eight countries also denounced Israel's "confiscation of land and expansion of settlements" on Palestinian territory as well as attempts to "change the topography" of Jerusalem.

They renewed their call for a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and urged "Israel to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

They also said Iraq "has not totally satisfied its obligations" to the United Nations imposed after a U.S.-led multinational coalition ejected Iraq from Kuwait.

They referred to its "refusal to free Kuwaiti prisoners"

seized during the seven-month occupation.

While expressing their "compassion for the suffering of the Iraqi people," these countries said "the Iraqi government bore responsibility for the suffering."

The eight said they were in "solidarity" with the United Arab Emirates in its conflict with Iran over the sovereignty of three islands in the Gulf: Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunb.

They also called for a lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia, where the Muslim-led government is fighting off Bosnian-Serb advances.

They said they were "concerned" about the situation in Somalia and in Afghanistan, urging the factions in

both countries to reach an understanding.

The eight urged the Chechens and Russians to "settle their differences through dialogue."

They agreed to meet "before September 1995" to finalise a document on reinforcing their cooperation.

The Damascus declaration was signed in March 1991 calling for Egyptian and Syrian military aid to the Gulf states in return for \$10 billion in economic assistance.

The six Gulf states are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

The declaration has yet to be implemented, although its signatories meet regularly to discuss Arab problems.

Egypt reports it blocked subversive material for Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt said Sunday that it had foiled an attempt to smuggle bomb-making material through Cairo international airport to Egyptian extremists in Sudan.

Airport security officials also announced they had discovered undeclared telecommunications equipment in a Sudanese diplomat's shipment.

At the same time, Egypt began enforcing new regulations by turning away eight Sudanese who arrived at Cairo international airport without visas. Until Sunday, Sudanese had been welcome without permits in Egypt.

In Khartoum, Sudanese officials expressed regret over the visa situation but said they would not retaliate.

"The Sudan's doors will remain open to all Arabs without conditions," Sudanese government spokesman Abdul Basit Sabdarat said.

The Sudanese Foreign

Ministry, meanwhile, criticised what it termed "a series of escalations by the Egyptian regime against Sudan."

It accused Egypt of violating aviation agreements by cutting Sudan Airways flights to Egypt to two per week, banning all Sudanese cargo flights and barring Sudan's national carrier from flying its traditional Cairo-Rome route.

Egypt has long accused Sudan of harbouring extremists who have waged a three-year insurgency to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule.

But tensions have been rising since gunmen on June 26 attempted to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as he arrived in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to attend an African summit.

Mr. Mubarak has accused the Islamic regime in Sudan of orchestrating the attack, and Foreign Minister Amr Musa has called for Sudan to

be isolated until it abandons policies that threaten neighbouring countries.

In the latest allegation against Sudan, Egyptian airport officials said they had stopped a shipment of bomb-making literature and equipment headed to Egyptian radicals in Sudan. The shipment also included fake Egyptian stamps and special ink used in official documents, they said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the shipment came from a foreign country they would not name. They refused to disclose other details.

In a separate incident, airport security forces confiscated wireless telecommunications equipment being brought into Egypt by a diplomat assigned to the Sudanese embassy.

The officials said a diplomat had informed Egyptian officials he was bringing a television, a radio and a video recorder.

Queen Victoria may have been illegitimate

LONDON (AFP) — Queen Victoria who reigned from 1837 to 1901 may have been illegitimate and therefore not entitled to reign, according to two British researchers who have studied the sovereign's background.

The researchers, Malcolm Pitso and William Potts, lecturers at Lancaster University in England and Berkeley University in California, say none of Victoria's ancestors was affected by the haemophilia which the transmitted her children. The two, who studied the medical histories of eight generations of Victoria's ancestors, concluded that unless there had been a genetic mutation, the chances of which they put at "one in 50,000", Victoria must have been the result of an extra-marital affair by her mother.

"In the end, it's a question we could not answer. But if I were in a court of law, I would say there's a reasonable chance Victoria was illegitimate."

DNA testing is the solution, Malcolm Pitso told The Sunday Times. The Potts brothers said the theory of an extra-marital affair was plausible because at the time the three sons of George III who were all married were vying with each other to produce an heir. They said it was possible that Victoria's father the Duke of Kent, who was then over 50, may have encouraged his wife to take a lover in order to increase her chances of becoming pregnant.

Charles opposed ambassador role for Diana

LONDON (AFP) — Prince Charles "objected" to a plan two years ago to make his estranged wife, Princess Diana an ambassador at large.

The Mail on Sunday newspaper reported that the prince, who was quoted as saying "I don't think it's a good idea," said the government helped to draw up the "secret plan" by which Diana would have served British interests in a way more political than her present activities for charity.

The paper said the idea had been discussed at high-level meetings including a private session with Prime Minister John Major as well as lunch with Home Secretary Michael Howard.

Key cabinet ministers argued that the princess was an invaluable national asset who could be used to great effect in the complicated ballet of international diplomacy, the report said. Those in favour of the idea "believed the princess would create sunny skies while diplomats worked behind the scenes in problem areas abroad," the paper said.

However the idea was dropped after being opposed by the palace. "Prince Charles and his advisers objected strongly to the princess becoming an ambassador at large," The Mail on Sunday said.

Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated in December 1992.

Tourism chief orders crackdown on sex tours

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines government plans a crackdown on sex tour syndicates, news reports said Sunday as a senator filed a bill to strengthen legislation against child prostitution.

Eduardo Pilapil, the new tourism secretary, warned his office will cancel business permits for those involved in illegal sex tours.

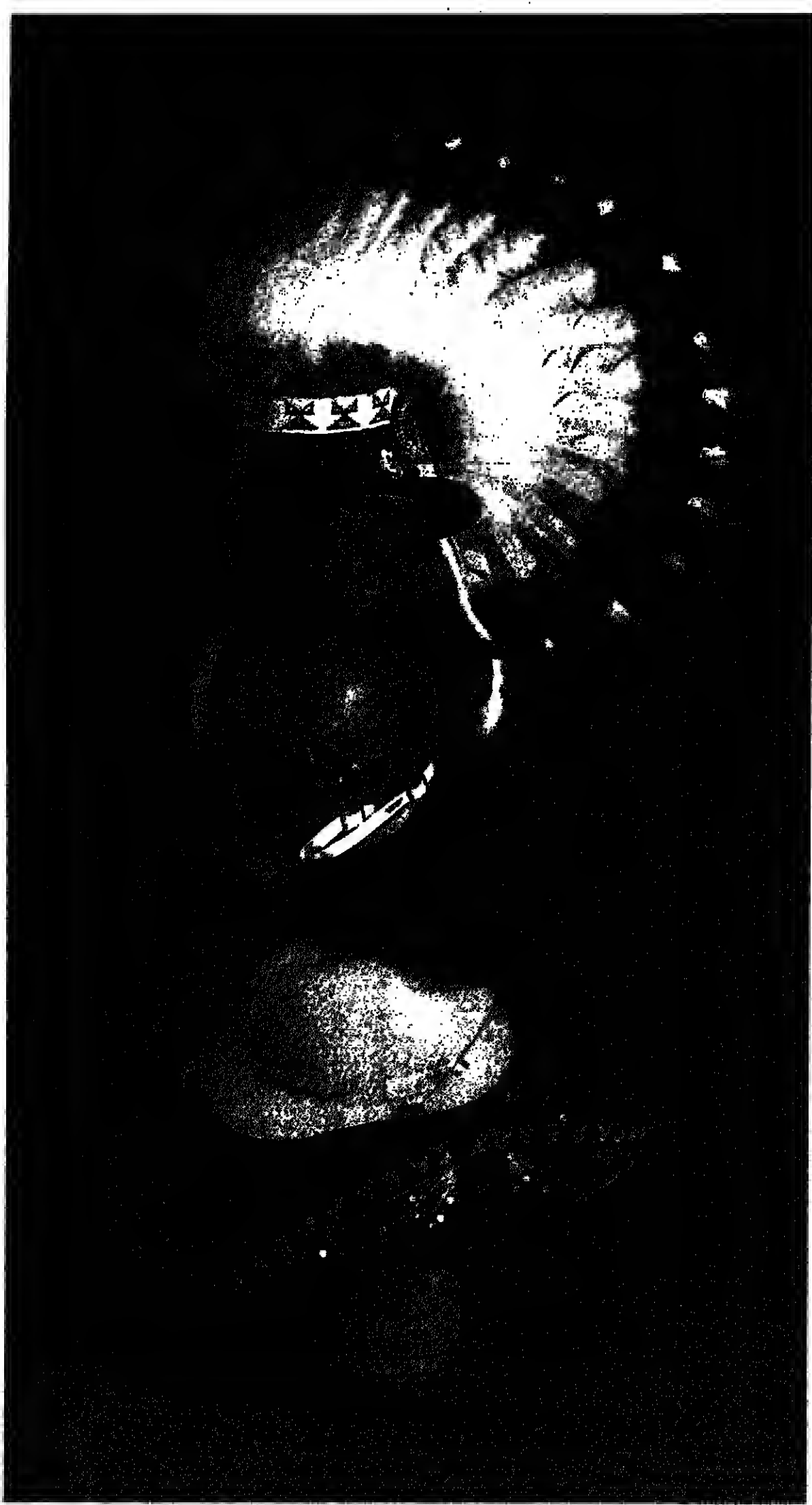
He called for close coordination between the Immigration Bureau, police and local officials. Pilapil said legitimate tour operators should help in the campaign by reporting the syndicates and refusing to act as a front for groups who bring tourists mainly to satisfy their sexual pleasures.

"We will never allow these syndicates to thrive," newspapers quoted Pilapil as saying. He also noted that the Philippines "has plenty of attractions that would entice tourists to come in."

News reports this month exposed the existence of a syndicate bringing tourists to Angeles city north of Manila with the purpose of having sex with a stable of prostitutes there.

Angels had attracted off-duty servicemen of the former U.S. Clark Base and other visiting troops.

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Mujahedeen say Iran launched attack on Iraq base

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards fired rockets at a camp of an Iranian exile group in Iraq but caused no damage or casualties, the Mujahedeen-Khalq organisation said on Sunday.

The Mujahedeen, which opposes the Tehran government, said Iranian guards had penetrated up to 90 kilometres into Iraqi territory and attacked the group's main camp, Al Ashraf, which is about 100 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.

"This morning at 4:15 a.m. the mullah's regime carried out an abortive ground attack on Ashraf camp," the group said in a statement handed to foreign reporters in Baghdad.

This latest attack is likely to further strain relations between Iraq and Iran who fought a ruinous war from 1980-88.

The official press on Sunday carried a message from Iraq's Foreign Ministry to the United Nations accusing Iran of violating a U.N.-brokered ceasefire halting hostilities in 1988.

The message said Iranian helicopter gunships violated Iraqi airspace and Tehran was fortifying border positions within "the security zone" between the two countries.

IAF accuses government of 'undemocratic' actions ahead of municipal polls

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) Sunday criticised what it described as the government's "continuous undemocratic practices" and vowed to take a strong action if such practices continue.

Hanzeh Mansour, the IAF spokesperson, told a press conference that the government's "recent practices" against Islamist candidates and supporters in Tuesday's municipal elections are "undemocratic" and said the front would take the "appropriate measures" in the future if such practices continue.

"Our supporters are receiving threats and our candidates are being harassed by policemen," said Mr. Mansour. "Our participation in the elections is going to be partial only to prove that we want to take part in the democratic process."

Mr. Mansour, a member of the Lower House of Parliament, said policemen had broken up several meetings held by Islamist candidates and ordered the dispersal of their supporters from the meeting place.

He cited an incident where he attended a campaign meeting of one of the front's candidates, Mohammad Banna. Policemen came in and ordered the crowd of 40 people to leave the house of Sheikh Fakhri

Issa where the meeting took place, he said.

In another incident, Mr. Mansour said, he was addressing a crowd of 2,000 people in Zarqa, when the electricity went off and the meeting was forced to an end.

Also addressing Sunday's press conference, Deputy Mohammad Owaidat said: "All candidates are receiving people at their residences and launching electioneering campaigns before Tuesday."

According to Dr. Owaidat the IAF has sent several letters to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Minister of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat and Amman Governor Talaat Nawayseh to protest against such practices. But they were all "in vain," he said.

"The government people are also threatening shopkeepers if they hang any posters or banners for Islamist candidates inside or outside their shops," Mr. Owaidat claimed.

Dr. Owaidat said that the front would take an "action" if these "malpractices and harassment" of Islamists continue.

He did not specify what kind of action will the front adopt.

"We do not resort to violence and this is definitely not our style or means," he said. "But we are fed up with memos and letters."

High number of blocs favours IAF in Irbid municipal election

By Rama Husselal
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Seven blocs, including that formed by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), are vying for the 58,000 votes in this conservative city in the north in Tuesday's municipal polls.

Observers believe that the Islamic bloc's chances for winning the elections in this town of 745,774 inhabitants are enhanced by the high number of blocs that could split the votes in favour of the Islamists.

But, the observers warn, some or all of the other blocs, which represent some of the strongest tribes in Irbid, might pull out at the right moment to weaken the Islamists.

For the first time, municipal elections all over the Kingdom are taking place on the same day, following the enactment last year of a new municipalities law.

The government last year dissolved all elected city councils, replacing them by appointed temporary councils ahead of the elections.

Abdul Ra'ed Tal, president of Al-Ehsan Islamic bloc in Irbid, said he supports the amendments as a necessary experience that should be tried everywhere.

"The elections will enable voters to shoulder more responsibilities when electing their candidates and raises their freedom of choice when voting," he said.

Mr. Tal, an attorney, said that his bloc will focus on ensuring justice and provid-

ing fair and equal services for everyone.

"We will work as one team all working for the benefit of people and country," Mr. Tal said.

Naser Dalgamouni, president of Al Amal bloc, said the elections were going to be a "democratic festival because people will get the chance to be part of it."

"People are looking for a mayor who would work day and night in serving Irbid," said Mr. Dalgamouni, a civil engineer. Irbid citizens are also seeking good quality in services in return to the tax they pay, he said.

Addressing the concerns of many people in Irbid that successful candidates tend to forget what they promised people before elections, Mr. Dalgamouni said: "Hopefully we will ensure they will not be disappointed with us."

"We did not promise a lot but we will work to accomplish a lot, and the ultimate judge is the Irbid street," he added.

Irbid citizens also fear that tribalism might dominate the elections. According to a 50-year-old accountant, tribalism and parties will "unfortunately" overpower all other values.

"The elections in themselves reflect democracy. But in the past tribalism dominated the elections," he told the Jordan Times.

He said Irbid citizens were also "fed up" with the promises candidates deliver before they are elected and what they actually do after they take their seats.

"People are not very enthusiastic about the elections because they haven't seen the changes they were promised," he added pointing to the lack of services that the municipality must provide.

Mohammad Radaydeh, amirchant, said that people in Irbid suffer from tribalism and nepotism.

"We like to see every one receiving the same kind of services and not having people favoured over others because their relatives enjoy a municipal position," he said.

Mohammad Al Shar, a private doctor, said people were opting for a new stream that will change the existing system.

"Most people are fed up with the existing system and are hoping for something new that might change some of the existing criteria of tribalism and nepotism," Dr. Shar told the Jordan Times.

Other blocs include Al Bina' bloc headed by Taysir Khreis; Al Inqaz bloc headed by Mifteh Batayneh; Al Adaleh bloc headed by Mischel Al Aza; Al Tawoun bloc headed by Husni Bani Kamaneh; and Al Islah bloc headed by Sami Ersteidat.

There are 3,393 candidates running for the 2,033 seats in the 259 municipal councils. In addition there are 963 for mayorship position, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Sunday. The report added that the total number of registered voters had reached 798,274.

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Jordan Prime

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian...
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